NATION

BJP can't sue T'gana CM for defamation: SC

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BUSINESS

GDP may take 0.6% hit due to Trump's tariffs, warns CEA

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SPORTS

Alcaraz ends Sinner's reign at US Open, wins sixth Grand Slam title

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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SALAR 360

BLACKOUT & OUTAGES:

IS OUR DIGITAL WORLD CRUMBLING?

India's internet just hit the slow lane after undersea cables in the Red Sea were cut on 7 Aug. The reason? Still unknown. But it's part of a larger pattern, as power blackouts & internet failures are becoming the new normal. What's even more chilling? Back in 2021, World Economic Forum warned of a "catastrophic cyber event" by 2025. **Salar News takes a look at the outages of 2025.** >>>See on Page 5

SC tells EC to include Aadhaar as 12th valid docu for Bihar SIR

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Election Commission to include Aadhaar as a valid identity document for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi clarified that Aadhaar would be the 12th prescribed document for voter identification, but not proof of citizenship.

The court emphasised that while Aadhaar can help verify identity, its authenticity must be checked by authorities. It reiterated that Aadhaar cannot establish citizenship, aligning with provisions of the Aadhaar Act and Representation of the People Act.

The order came amid a political row over the SIR, the first in Bihar since 2003. The EC's June 24 notification had set September 30 for publishing the final roll. The exercise saw the voter count drop from 7.9 crore to 7.24 crore, sparking allegations by opposition parties of disenfranchisement.

Aadhaar Card **PHOTO: PTI**

Observing nobody wants the EC to include illegal immigrants in the electoral roll, the bench stressed only genuine citizens will be allowed to vote and those claiming to be genuine on the basis of forged documents will be excluded from the electoral roll.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Shoeb Alam, appearing for the RJD, alleged EC was ignoring Supreme Court orders and issuing show-cause notices to officials accepting Aadhaar. The EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, countered that 99.6 per cent of voters had already submitted acceptable documents, and only a handful sought to use Aadhaar.

The court warned against misuse of Aadhaar as citizenship proof but insisted its inclusion would not compromise the process, as all documents are subject to verification. The EC was asked to publish the court's order on its website and the matter will be heard again on 15 September. *—PTI*

19 killed as 'Gen Z' protest social media ban in Nepal

300 hurt as they try to break into Parl; Home Minister quits

Police stand behind barricades as thousands of young protesters rally against corruption in the Nepal government, triggered by its ban on social media platforms, in Kathmandu, on Monday **PHOTO: ANI**

KATHMANDU, 8 SEPT

At least 19 people were killed and over 300 injured across Nepal on Monday as police used force to quell nationwide protests led by the country's Gen Z population against the KP Sharma Oli government.

Nepal's tech-savvy Gen Z generation poured into the streets of Kathmandu and other major cities to protest corruption, nepotism, favouritism, and misgovernance, triggered by the government's recent ban on social media platforms.

Clashes turned deadly when protesters breached barricades and forced their way into the Parliament complex in New Baneshwor, Kathmandu. Police responded with water cannons, tear gas, and even live rounds to disperse the crowd. The Nepali Army was later deployed, taking control of roads surrounding the Parliament.

According to police spokesperson Binod Ghimire, 17 people were killed in Kathmandu and two in Sunsari district following police firing. The Kathmandu Post reported eight deaths at the National Trauma Centre, three each at Everest and Civil Hospitals, two at Kathmandu Medical College, and one at Tribhuvan Teaching Hospital. Protesters carried placards reading "Shut down corruption and not social media" and "Unban social media", while chanting anti-government slogans. A young protester in his 20s declared, "I'd rather get hit by the Oli government's bullet than back down. This corruption and misgovernance must end."

Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak of the Nepali Congress resigned on moral grounds following the violence, according to party sources. A protester , condemned the government's response, calling the protests "a spontaneous, non-political uprising by young people and schoolchildren". *—PTI*

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MAJOR APPS BANNED BUT NOT TIKTOK

On 4 September, Nepal banned 26 social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn, for failing to register with its Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. The companies were given a week from 28 August to comply but missed the deadline. Notably, TikTok was not banned, as it had registered in time. While most nations have banned Chinese app TikTok, Nepal retained it amid its close ties with China.

21 ARRESTED

Riots rock Mandya amid Ganesha habba

MANDYA, 7 SEPT

Tension gripped Maddur town in Mandya district after communal clashes erupted during Lord Ganesh idol immersion on Sunday. The situation turned volatile following stone-pelting allegedly by miscreants from another community.

Section 144 (prohibitory orders) was imposed in Maddur and 21 people were taken into custody.

The stone-pelting began about 500m from a mosque, was greeted by to retaliation from members of the procession, police said.

Police resorted to mild lathicharge to disperse two clashing groups. Hindu activists later staged protests, raising 'Jai Sri Ram' slogans, burning tyres, and waving saffron flags.

Mandya Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi said two FIRs have been registered: one was registered on its own and another based on a complaint by an injured person.

Adding to the unrest, Hubballi also witnessed tension after miscreants allegedly hurled stones during a Ganesha procession on Saturday night. Police intervened, while additional forces were stationed in sensitive areas of the city.

KSRP contingents have been deployed across Maddur, and senior officers are camping in the area to ensure peace, even as police across districts have been placed on alert in the wake of incidents reported from Maddur, Hubballi, and Shivamogga.

Police resorted to lathicharge **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

State Home Minister G Parameshwara said the situation is under control, while officials said that all the injuries were mild.

"There's no problem now," Parameshwara told press in City on Monday. "The immersion of Ganesha happened afterwards. Small incidents have taken place. At one place, a stabbing attempt was made for bringing a flag. At another place, people spat from the rooftop on small children of three years and four years age during the Ganapati procession."

BJP gave a call for Maddur Bandh on 9 September.

—Agencies

SIT finds new skeletal remains in D'sthala

BENGALURU, 9 SEPT

The SIT probing the alleged case of multiple rapes, murders, and burials in Dharmasthala recovered human skeletal remains during a spot inspection at Bangale Gudde on 6 September, police said on Monday. The discovery was made in the presence of Soujanya's uncle, police said. Soujanya was allegedly raped and murdered in 2012, a case that remains unresolved more than a decade later. Police sources said the relative exhumed a human skull from the site on instructions from activist Girish Mattannavar, who had earlier obtained information from the masked whistleblower, based on whose complaint SIT was formed. *—PTI*

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Economic practices must be fair: India at BRICS

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The world is seeking a stable and predictable environment for trade and investment and economic practices should be fair, transparent and to everyone's benefit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday, amid increasing global concerns over Washington's tariff tussle.

In an address at a virtual BRICS summit, he said India strongly believes that the foundational principles such as open, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory approach of the international trading system must be protected.

He represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the summit that saw participation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin among other leaders.

The summit was convened by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to discuss trade disruptions triggered by Washington's policies on trade and tariff. When there are multiple disruptions, our objective should be to proof it against such shocks. That means creating more resilient, reliable, redundant and shorter supply chains," he said.

"Where India is concerned, some of our biggest deficits are with BRICS partners and we have been pressing for expeditious solutions. We hope that this realisation will be part of the takeaways from today's meeting," he said. The remarks assumed significance as they came amid India's ballooning trade deficit with China. *—PTI*

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Right idea: Zelenskyy backs US tariffs on India

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 8 SEPT

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that it is the "right idea" to impose tariffs on countries making deals with Russia, without naming India.

Zelenskyy was asked if he thinks that the plan to put sanctions backfired when he saw pictures of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin.

US President Donald Trump has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

Zelenskyy had dialled Modi on 30 August , two days ahead of Modi's meeting with President Putin on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin.

He conveyed his readiness for a meeting with the top leadership of Russia and added that the end of the war must begin with an immediate ceasefire.

An Indian readout released after the call said Modi reaffirmed India's "steadfast and consistent position" for a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine conflict and support for efforts aimed at the earliest restoration of peace. *—PTI*

TOGETHER IN PRAYERS

Hundreds of devotees throng Bengaluru's Shivajinagar on Monday to catch a glimpse of the procession held as part of the Feast of St Mary at St Mary's Basilica Church **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Radhakrishnan vs Reddy: Stage set for VP polls

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The stage is set for a direct contest between NDA nominee C P Radhakrishnan and joint opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy in Tuesday's vice-presidential election, triggered by the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Members of both Houses of Parliament will cast their votes in Parliament House between 10 AM and 5 PM, with counting to begin at 6 PM. Results are expected later in the evening.

The BJP-led NDA, which enjoys a numerical advantage, appears to have the upper hand. However, voting will take place through a secret ballot, and MPs are not bound by party whips. This allows members to vote according to their personal preference.

Both the NDA and the Congress-led opposition held separate meetings on Monday to brief their MPs about the election process. Mock polls were also conducted to familiarise members with the voting procedure. Each MP will receive a ballot paper listing both candidates. Voters must mark their preference by writing the figure '1' next to their chosen candidate's name. EC said the figure may be written in international numerals, Roman numerals, or any Indian language. *—PTI*

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5.2L HECTARES OF CROP LOST

111 died in State due to monsoon rains, says CM

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

Karnataka has reported 111 rain-related deaths since 1 April, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday, following a high-level review with senior officials and district deputy commissioners.

Compensation of Rs 5 lakh has been paid to each victim's family, totalling around Rs 5.5 crore. The state also reported widespread damage to homes, with 651 fully and 9,087 partially destroyed. Compensation has been disbursed in 649 and 8,608 cases respectively, amounting to Rs 24.3 crore.

Rain-related livestock losses stand at 766 animals, with Rs 1.52 crore released in compensation. Crop damage spans 5.20 lakh hectares, 4.80 lakh hectares of agricultural crops and 40,407 hectares of horticultural crops.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure housing support for affected families under government schemes. He also emphasised timely repairs at the Tungabhadra dam, which is vital for irrigating the first crop. Officials informed him that tenders have been issued for replacing 32 crest gates, with eight ready for installation. However, the dam's maintenance falls under the union government's Tungabhadra Board.

Karnataka has received 753 mm of rainfall from June 1 to early September, 4 per cent above the seasonal norm of 721 mm. Last year saw 23 per cent excess rainfall during the same period. While Chamarajanagar recorded a 24 per cent rainfall deficit, districts like Vijayapura, Gadag, Bagalkote, Davanagere, Tumakuru, and Belagavi recorded over 20% excess rainfall. Major reservoirs now hold 840.52 TMC of water, slightly below last year's 856.17 TMC, and close to the full capacity of 895.62 TMC. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SALAR

Media Academy partners with Infy to upskill scribes

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The Karnataka Media Academy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Infosys as part of its CSR initiative, "Springboard," to provide essential training for journalists. The agreement, witnessed by State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, aims to enhance soft skills and digital media training for media professionals. Ayesha Khanam, chairperson of the State Media Academy, stated, "We are optimistic that this platform will play a major role in upskilling journalists." Satheesha B Nanjappa, SVP at Infosys, emphasised that the programme will be beneficial for journalists, particularly from tier-2 and tier-3 cities, with plans to train 150 journalists this year, including a dedicated batch for women journalists —*PTI*

5 arrested for displaying Palestine flag

KOLAR, 8 AUG

Bangarpet police have arrested five persons for displaying a Palestine flag during a procession on Eid Milad in Kolar. The arrested have been identified as Syed Ghouse, Sulthan, Syed Junaid, Nazeer and Sonu. Police are also searching for few more individuals who were involved in the incident. Many pro-Hindu organisations, led by former Lok Sabha member S Muniswamy has urged the police to book the culprits. Dayanand, Circle Inspector Bangarpet, while confirming the arrests said the accused have been booked under various acts. —*Salar News*

PHOTO: SALAR

KSBDB pushes for ties with Germany during meet

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDB) Chairman SE Sudheendra met Parmod Kumar, Member of Parliament from Bergedorf, Germany, on Monday to discuss green energy collaborations. The talks focused on the Board's institutional partnership with Hamburg Invest, a leading German financial institution, aimed at scaling up and commercialising renewable energy in State. Sudheendra said the tie-up will pave the way for joint initiatives in solar, wind, bioenergy and waste-to-energy projects, while encouraging entrepreneurship and German investments. Officials from Hamburg Invest, including Project Director Lee Lee Ong, also participated in the meeting. —*Salar News*

State govt to host student interaction with Shux

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan approved a proposal to organise an interaction programme with astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Karnataka Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology, NS Boseraju said on Monday. The Department of Science and Technology, in collaboration with ISRO and the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, will soon host the interaction. High school and government school students from Bengaluru and neighbouring districts will have a direct opportunity to interact with the astronaut, while students from other parts of State can participate via live streaming at regional science centres, he said. However, the date for the programme has not been announced yet. —*PTI*

Oppn, Cong trade blame over Mandya clashes

BJP says Hindus are targeted; CM says cops warned organisers

BENGALURU, 8 AUG

20 people were injured in Maddur on Sunday PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Following the communal clashes in Mandya's Maddur, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accused the BJP of spoiling peace while the Opposition BJP and JD(S) said the ruling Congress had betrayed Hindus. Pro-Hindu organisations took to the streets, while the government imposed prohibitory orders on the town.

The BJP charged that the Congress was allowing "anti-Hindu" seeds to be sown in society.

Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai accused the Congress government of creating "disharmony in society".

"The situation has gone so bad that there are some antisocial elements who think that they can get away with any kind of violence because they have got political backing.... The Hindu community is very peaceful," Bommai said. "It is the administration and politics of the Congress party that have created disharmony in society and the result is that this kind of violence happens and when this happens, the police behave one-sidedly."

Opposition Leader R Ashoka demanded an apology from Siddaramaiah, claiming that Hindus were being targeted in Dharmasthala, over Goddess Chamundeshwari and now in Maddur."Hindus have become second-class citizens in their own country," Ashoka said.

> Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai accused the Congress government of creating "disharmony in society"

"It's a peculiar situation. We don't know whether there is any government or if it has died. Should they (Congress) sell the nation for the vote bank politics? If you question them, they quickly pick up the Constitution book. Is this how you are protecting the Constitution?"

However, Mandya district in-charge minister N Cheluvarayaswamy told reporters in City that the stone pelting on the procession was pre-planned and is suspected to be carried out by people from outside the district.

He accused BJP and JD(S) of fanning the communal flames.

Similarly, Siddaramaiah accused the BJP of disturbing the peace. "If there is anyone who disturbs peace, it's them (BJP) only. BJP is an expert in inciting and spoiling peace," Siddaramaiah said, noting that Ganesha immersions were peaceful elsewhere in the state. He vowed strict action, while noting that the procession's organisers had ignored police warnings. "Be it Muslims, Hindus, BJP, Congress, or JD(S) – the law will take its course. The police had warned the people in the procession, telling them not to stay there for too long. At that time, some stone-pelting took place," he said.

—*Salar News with Agencies*

People are in a state of confusion whether this is Karnataka or Pakistan.... After Dharmasthala and Chamundeshwari temple, it is now the turn of Maddur town.... The Tipu gang.... have drawn a plan in Mandya and Mysuru to target Hindus.

-R Ashoka, Opposition Leader

Lakhs of Ganapati idols were immersed across the State. Nowhere such commotion took place.... We will not let this escalate

-G Parameshwara, Home Minister

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge during the interaction with the farmer PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

BJP, JD(S) tear Kharge apart for 'mocking' farmer

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

Opposition JD(S) and BJP flayed Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge for "mocking" a farmer in Kalaburagi district.

Kharge's conversation with a farmer whose crops were damaged by recent floods in the region has gone viral on social media.

In the video, Kharge asks the farmer, "How many acres have you sown?" When the farmer replies, "Four acres," Kharge responds, "Mine is 40 acres. Mine is worse than yours. You are coming and telling me. You can tell me but mine is worse than yours."

Kharge goes on to say, "Don't come here for publicity. I know about it. Green gram, black gram and pigeon peas – all have destroyed. You can at least sustain. We can't sustain because my losses are huge. Go and ask Modi and Shah."

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy called Kharge arrogant.

"If a farmer in distress cannot approach you and share his pain, then who else should he turn to?" he said on X. "Your conduct is proof of the traditional arrogance and ego of the Congress."

Similarly, BJP IT Head Amit Malviya wrote on X: "Next time Rahul Gandhi or Congress pretend to speak for farmers, remind them of this -- their own President mocked farmers' pain and told them not to whine and seek publicity all the time."

BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla also accused Kharge of "disrespecting" farmers

Poonawalla also slammed Congress MP Tariq Anwar after a video of villagers carrying him on their shoulders during an inspection of flood-hit areas in Bihar went viral on social media.

Terming it a "sense of entitlement," the BJP leader came down heavily on Anwar asking if he needs a "VVIP protocol" in flood affected areas too.

—*PTI/ANI*

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy has allegedly encroached 14.04 acres of government land PHOTO: PTI

HC allows govt to form SIT, summon HDK in land case

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The Karnataka High Court stayed a single judge's interim order that had put on hold both the constitution of an SIT and the summons issued to Union Minister for Heavy Industries, HD Kumaraswamy, in a land-grabbing case.

Earlier in June, the single judge had stayed the State government's 28 January order creating a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) as well as a 29 May summons issued by a tehsildar to Kumaraswamy.

The State government challenged that decision before a division bench. Hearing the appeal, Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi observed that the tehsildar holds legal authority to summon and record evidence during inquiries. The judges posted the matter for further hearing on 26 November.

The SIT, headed by Bengaluru Regional Commissioner Amlan Aditya Biswas, was tasked with probing alleged encroachment of 14.04 acres of government land.

Following the SIT's formation, revenue officials conducted surveys and issued summons to Kumaraswamy.

Kumaraswamy, however, had contended before the single judge of the Karnataka High Court that the proceedings were invalid since no notification had been issued under Section 195 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act or Section 8 of the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011-- both of which, he argued, are mandatory for delegating powers.

However, the State government contended that there they the summons were issued Section 28 of the Act and no powers under Section 195 was involved. —*PTI*

WILL DROP PIL AGAINST BANU IF SHE SAYS SORRY: SIMHA

MYSURU, 8 SEPT

Former MP Pratap Simha urged the State government to direct International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to issue an apology for her "anti-Hindu" statements before she inaugurates the Dasara festival. He said he will withdraw from his legal fight if she apologises. Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday, he alleged that Banu doesn't like Hindu rituals has insulted Hindus multiple times.

"I have filed a Public Interest Litigation in the High Court against the writer to prevent her from participating in the Dasara celebrations under Article 26 (hurting religious sentiments), he said. "I am ready to withdraw my petition if Banu Mushtaq apologises for her anti Hindu remarks."

However, he added that he doesn't believe Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will ask her to apologise as he was interested vote bank politics. —*Salar News*

D'sthala SIT finds new skeletal remains during spot inspection

MANGALURU, 8 SEPT

The SIT probing the alleged case of multiple rapes, murders, and burials in Dharmasthala recovered human skeletal remains during a spot inspection at Bangale Gudde on 6 September, police said on Monday.

The discovery was made in the presence of Soujanya's uncle, police said. Soujanya was allegedly raped and murdered in 2012—a case that remains unresolved more than a decade later.

Police sources said the relative exhumed a human skull from the site on instructions from activist Girish Mattannavar, who had earlier obtained information from the masked whistleblower, based on whose complaint SIT was formed.

The SIT confirmed that at least two sets of skeletal remains were recovered during the exercise.

"During the spot mahazar (inspection) at Bangale Gudde, the SIT recovered skeletal remains of at least two individuals," a senior police source said. Officials suspect more remains may be buried at the desolate site.

The recovered bones have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis. Investigators are probing why the whistelblower, despite being aware of the site, did not disclose it earlier.

Police added that the relative acted under activist Girish Mattannavar's direction and recorded the exhumation on video. He has not been taken into custody but is likely to be questioned further. —*PTI*

BJP DELEGATION TO MEET SHAH ON D'STHALA BURIALS, KOPPAL VIOLENCE

A delegation of the Karnataka BJP were set to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday night, the party State unit said. "The delegation will submit a report to Amit Shah regarding the Dharmasthala issue. We will also discuss the Koppal incident and other cases of attacks on Hindus," a statement issued by the BJP said. In Koppal, a 27-year-old youth leader Gavisiddappa Nayak was murdered on 3 August. The BJP has demanded a CBI probe into the incident. The delegation that will meet Shah include Opposition Leader R Ashoka, Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, MLA Harish Poonja and BJP legisla-

4 lakh kgs of stolen Anna Bhagya rice siezed in Yadgir

YADGIR, 8 SEPT

Officials of the Food and Civil Supplies Department seized around 4,10,800kgs of rice supplied under the Anna Bhagya public distribution and being illegally stored in Yadgir. A joint raid was conducted by the police, the Food Department and related officials late on Friday night at Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Industries on the outskirts of Taluk Gurmitkal.

"Officials confiscated 4,108 quintals of Anna Bhagya rice, with an estimated market value of over Rs 1 crore 17 lakh,"" Anilkumar Dhavalagi, Deputy Director Food and Civil Suppliers Yadgir, told Salar News. "It took three days to count the rice bags."

Investigations revealed that rice supplied under the Anna Bhagya public distribution scheme was being collected from different parts of the district and brought to the industry.

The repackaged rice was allegedly meant to be exported to Singapore, France, and Gulf nations.

This comes close on the heels of recent Anna Bhagya rice smuggling cases in Sirsi, Koppal district, and Hassan district. —*Salar News*

WELFARE SCHEMES

Govt spent ₹97,813 crore on five guarantees

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The State government has so far spent Rs 97,813 crore on the 'five guarantees', the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office said. Siddaramaiah chaired a review meeting on the five guarantees on Monday.

Later, the Chief Minister's office said in a statement, "Under the five Guarantee Schemes, an expenditure of Rs 97,813 crore has been incurred so far".

The five guarantee schemes are 'Gruha Jyoti' offering 200 units of free electricity to every household, 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme promising Rs 2,000 to every woman head of a family and 'Anna Bhagya' offering 10 kg rice to every member of the BPL family a month.

The 'Yuva Nidhi' promises Rs 3,000 dole to unemployed

graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders for two years (for those in the 18-25 age group) and 'Shakti' scheme permits free travel for Karnataka women in non-luxury government buses within the State.

The statement said that Rs 50,005 crore has been spent under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, Rs 18,139 crore under the Gruha Jyoti scheme, Rs 623 crore under the Yuva Nidhi scheme, Rs 13,903 crore under the Shakti scheme, and Rs 11,821.17 crore under the Anna Bhagya scheme.

The Chief Minister directed officers to update the list of deceased beneficiaries every month at the Panchayat level and the information should be provided to the banks concerned.

He told them that the names of the deceased beneficiaries should be removed from the list.

"Action must be taken at the Panchayat level for inclusion and deletion of beneficiaries," Siddaramaiah said.

Directions were given to take steps to resolve the confusion regarding whether GST return filers are eligible to receive benefits under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, the statement said.

Siddaramaiah instructed officers that ineligible BPL cardholders must be identified and their BPL cards should be cancelled at the Panchayat level. The standards related to this must be strictly enforced.

"Strict measures must be taken to prevent the sale of Anna Bhagya rice in the black market. There will be an examination of the possibility of distributing other region-specific food grains in place of rice," Siddaramaiah said. —*PTI*

HOW THE GOVERNMENT SPENT

- Gruhalakshmi scheme: ₹ 50,005
- Gruhajyothi scheme: ₹ 18,139 cr
- Yuvanidhi scheme: ₹ 623 cr
- Shakti scheme: ₹ 544 cr
- Annabhagya scheme: ₹ 13,903 cr

Yadgir officials booked in Jal Jeevan Mission scam

YADGIR, 8 SEPT

A corruption scandal has emerged within the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) project in Naikal village, Yadgir district in the State aimed at providing clean drinking water to rural households. A complaint lodged by Venkatesh Basanna Chatnalli, Chief Accounts Officer at Zilla Panchayat Yadgir, highlighted significant irregularities following an inspection on 22 August, 2025.

The inspection uncovered that numerous works listed in estimates were not completed, with MDPE pipes poorly installed and many billed works allegedly unexecuted. A report from the Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department indicated only 50-60 per cent physical progress, contrasting with a financial progress claim of 82.5 per cent . It was also revealed that

excessive payments amounting to Rs 190.39 lakh had been approved due to inflated billing.

Transpotech Consultants' report dated 4 September, 2025, confirmed only 529 of 721 FHTCs were completed, raising serious concerns regarding project execution. Accused officials include N. Srinivas, Assistant Engineer-2, who has been suspended, and Bannappa, Assistant Executive Engineer, now transferred.

CEO Lavish Ordia stated, "A report will be sent to the government for disciplinary action." —*Salar News*

PHOTO: PTI

CM hikes stipend for anganwadi workers in Bihar

PATNA, 8 SEPT

In a strategic move ahead of the assembly elections, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced an increase in stipends for anganwadi workers and helpers. As per Kumar's announcement on X, anganwadi workers (sevikas) will receive Rs 9,000, up from Rs 7,000, while helpers (sahayikas) will see a rise from Rs 4,000 to Rs 4,500. "Anganwadi sevikas and sahayikas play a big role in improving the nourishment and overall wellbeing of children and pregnant women," Kumar noted. The state currently has over 1.20 lakh anganwadi workers and helpers. Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav accused the government of copying his ideas and pledged to pause electoral promises until the elections are announced. *—PTI*

NCW orders probe into 'nude gang' attacks in UP

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Vijaya Rahatkar, chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), has called for a swift, impartial, and time-bound investigation into alarming reports from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, where a media article claimed a "nude gang" emerged from fields to attack women. Rahatkar urged authorities to enhance police patrolling in the affected areas to ensure the safety of women. In a letter to the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police, she requested the immediate identification and arrest of the suspects, demanding strict action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The DGP has been instructed to submit a detailed report on the matter to the NCW within three days. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia dies of kidney ailments

BHUBANESWAR, 8 SEPT

BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, who was suffering from kidney-related ailments, died at a hospital in Chennai on Monday. He was 68. The senior BJD leader was a four-time MLA from Nuapada seat. He was a minister in the Naveen Patnaik cabinet from 2022 to 2024. Dholakia had won the seat by a margin of 10,881 votes in the 2024 polls. With his death, the number of BJD MLAs in the state assembly came down to 50. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik, Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida condoled the demise of Dholakia. *—PTI*

UP man held for 'objectionable' remarks on MLA

BALLIA, 8 SEPT

Police here have arrested a man for making objectionable comments against BJP MLA from Bansdih Ketakee Singh. The accused, Pintu Yadav was a resident of Sangapur village in Ballia. Station Officer (SO) Kaushal Pathak said Yadav was arrested on Sunday for making objectionable comments against Ketakee Singh. Police said Yadav was arrested on charges of disturbing peace in the area. Local BJP leaders Sitanshu Gupta and Rajesh Singh alleged that Yadav shared a video on social media and made indecent comments against Ketakee Singh by using songs having double meaning. SO Pathak said action will also be taken in this matter once a formal complaint is received. *—PTI*

VP polls: Radhakrishnan has an edge

With 425 MPs, NDA comfortably crosses the majority mark of 391

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Maharashtra Governor and BJP veteran CP Radhakrishnan appears poised for victory in Tuesday's vice-presidential election, with key parties BJD and BRS deciding to abstain. His opponent, B Sudershan Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge backed by the Opposition INDIA bloc, is facing an uphill battle.

The electoral college for the election comprises 788 members – 543 from the Lok Sabha and 245 from the Rajya Sabha, including 12 nominated members. With six Rajya Sabha and one Lok Sabha seats vacant, the effective strength is 781, making the majority mark 391.

However, with 11 MPs from BJD and BRS abstaining, only 770 members are expected to vote, bringing the new majority mark down to 386. The NDA, with 425 MPs, comfortably crosses that threshold. It also enjoys support from Andhra Pradesh's YSR Congress Party, which has 11 MPs.

NDA's vice presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, RS Deputy Chairman and-Harivansh Narayan Singh during the Janata Dal (United) Parliamentary Party meeting in New Delhi *PHOTO: PTI*

Radhakrishnan, 67, is being projected by the NDA as an untainted leader with solid political and administra-tive experience, having served two terms in the Lok Sabha and led the BJP in Tamil Nadu.

Reddy, 79, hailing from Telangana, is known for landmark judgements, including declaring the Salwa Judum anti-Naxal movement unconstitutional. The BJP criticised this verdict, with Home Minister Amit Shah calling it a setback in the fight against Maoism.

The Opposition, however, has framed the election as an ideological battle. Reddy, who also led Telangana's caste survey panel, urged MPs in a video message to vote for the "spirit of India" over party lines. He is sup-ported by the Congress-led INDIA bloc, which describes him as a champion of social, economic, and political justice.

Radhakrishnan campaigned actively, meeting MPs across states, while Reddy toured opposition leaders, including Lalu Prasad, drawing criticism from the BJP for engaging with a convicted political leader. *—PTI*

- Radhakrishnan, 67, is being projected by the NDA as an untainted leader with solid political and administra-tive experience, having served two terms in the Lok Sabha and led the BJP in Tamil Nadu.

EVM can't be used in prez, VP polls

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Electronic voting machines (EVM), which have so far been used in five Lok Sabha and over 130 assembly polls, cannot be used in presidential, vice presidential, Rajya Sabha and state legislative council elections. state legislative council elections. EVMs are designed to work as vote aggregators in direct elections such as the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. Voters press the button against the candidate they prefer. *—PTI*

'Reddy meeting convicted Lalu shows hypocrisy'

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The BJP on Monday slammed joint opposition's vice presidential candidate B Sudershan Reddy for meeting RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav in his campaign, claiming that reaching out to a leader convicted in corruption cases has exposed his hypocrisy.

Reddy who spoke of saving the soul of India, met someone facing more corruption charges, including offering jobs in the railways in lieu of bribe, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

He criticised several retired judges for defending Reddy against Home Minister Amit Shah's criticism of his judgement as a member of Supreme Court double bench which had disbanded Salwa Judum, a civil militia which worked with police in fighting Maoists.

The BJP leader also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as a casual politician for his reported personal trip abroad. Senior BJP leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary also slammed Reddy. *—PTI*

TRAI denies blocking poll SMS outreach

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Monday said it did not receive any application relating to sending SMS to a political party's Maharashtra cadre on how the 2024 Assembly election was allegedly 'stolen'. It doesn't approve individual SMS templates.

TRAI's rebuttal came after earlier claimed that it had rejected its application for sending out SMSes with the link of a documentary on how Maharashtra assembly elections were allegedly "stolen" on the grounds that it is "content related to protest".

TRAI doesn't approve individual SMS templates, it said, tagging a screenshot of the rejection by 'STPL', a service provider.

Congress had also claimed that the rejection indicated "telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud" and there were coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress information.

Chairman of Congress's data analytics department Praveen Chakravarty had said the Congress wanted to send SMSes to its Maharashtra cadre of the link to the YouTube documentary "How the MH 2024 election was stolen", and as per government process, an application was filed with TRAI for approval.

He had claimed TRAI rejected permission to send SMSes, saying it is 'protest content'.

He questioned the synchronisation between Home Ministry, TRAI and the Election Commission. *—PTI*

Praveen Chakravarty *PHOTO: PTI*

X post row: Cong rejects reports of Balram's removal

T' PURAM, 8 SEPT

The Congress in Kerala on Monday rejected media reports that former legislator VT Balram was removed as the chairman of the KPCC's digital media cell in view of the recent "bidis and Bihar" post on its social media handle.

KPCC Chief Sunny Joseph said such social media posts are prepared and published on the X platform by party supporters, as part of the digital media cell.

He termed as "unfortunate" a section of the media blaming Balram for the post.

He accused CPI (M) leaders and some media outlets of "misusing" this situation to tarnish Balram's image.

However, the leadership is mulling reorganising the social media wing ahead of the upcoming panchayat and assembly elections.

Joseph had admitted that there was a "mistake" and "lack of caution" while making the controversial post on the social media handle of the party. *—PTI*

National Investigation Agency conducts searches at 22 locations in terror-related cases, in Kulgam in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

2 terrorists dead, 3 soldiers hurt in J&K encounter

SRINAGAR, 8 SEPT

Two unidentified terrorists were killed and three soldiers injured in an encounter in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Security forces launched a search operation in the Gudar forest area of Kulgam following information about the presence of terrorists there.

The search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened fire at the positions of the security forces.

Vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and, upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting exchange gunfire during which one terrorist was killed, while an Army officer was injured

The Army said another terrorist was shot dead in the ongoing operation, taking the toll of militants to two.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani intruder was arrested along the International Border (IB) in RS Pura sector in Jammu and a protest is being lodged with the neighbouring country over the incident.

The incident took place at the Octroi outpost.

The intruder, Siraj Khan from village 27-Chak in Bhalwal tehsil in Pakistan's Punjab province, crossed the border and aggressively approached the border fence in Suchetgarh tehsil on 7 September.

When the intruder paid no heed to warnings, the troops fired at him and took him into custody later. *—PTI*

- The intruder, Siraj Khan from village 27-Chak in Bhalwal tehsil in Pakistan's Punjab province, crossed the border and approached the border fence in Suchetgarh tehsil.

NIA searches in J&K, 5 states in terror conspiracy

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has launched searches at 22 locations across five states and Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror conspiracy investigation. Officials reported on Monday that searches are currently ongoing in nine locations in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as eight in Bihar, and two in Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, searches are being performed at one location each in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the targeted areas include Baramulla, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama districts. *—PTI*

10 EUROPEAN FIRMS TO COLLABORATE WITH TN: CM

CHENNAI, 8 SEPT

Tamil Nadu has signed agreements with 23 companies, including the UK-based Hinduja Group and AstraZeneca, amounting to Rs 15,516 crore, with the potential to create 17,613 jobs, Chief Minister M K Stalin announced on Monday.

The Hinduja Group will invest Rs 7,500 crore in the state's electric vehicle ecosystem, generating over 1,000 jobs. AstraZeneca intends to expand its Global Innovation and Technological Centre in Chennai by Rs 176 crore.

Stalin emphasized the significance of his recent week-long tour of Germany and the UK, stating, "My foreign trip has been a huge success," despite criticism from opposition parties.

He noted that ten new companies are pursuing collaborations, and 17 others are expanding, reaffirming their confidence in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, a similar investors' summit will be held in Hosur, with the inauguration of the Rs 2,000 crore Delta Electronics factory soon. *—PTI*

MK Stalin *PHOTO: PTI*

Workers to protest long working hours

THANE, 8 SEPT

The Hind Mazdoor Sabha announced plans for agitation across Maharashtra if the state government does not reverse its decision to increase working hours in factories, shops, and other establishments.

Sanjay Wadhavkar, General Secretary of the Maharashtra Council of Hind Mazdoor Sabha, condemned the amendments, stating they would "legalize exploitation" of workers. He argued that the labour department lacks adequate manpower for monitoring, making the situation worse.

The Maharashtra cabinet approved the changes on 3 September, allowing a daily working limit to rise from nine to 12 hours. Breaks will now come only after six hours of work, rather than five.

If the decision is not rescinded, Wadhavkar warned they launch state-wide protests. The regulations align Maharashtra with other states that have enacted similar reforms. *—PTI*

'China, India drive ASEAN growth'

SINGAPORE, 8 SEPT

Describing India and China as "drivers of Asia's growth", a senior Singaporean minister on Monday said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gain when New Delhi and Beijing engage. Minister of State for Trade and Industry Alvin Tan noted that ASEAN offers a thriving market, stability and opportunity for trade and cooperation.

He was speaking at the forum titled 'China and India: Fostering Growth, Investment and Trade Amid Global Uncertainty', organised by the East Asian Institute and the Institute of South Asian Studies of the National University of Singapore.

China and ASEAN integrated supply chains. India can integrate supply chains with ASEAN too. *—PTI*

Singaporean Minister Alvin Tan said that ASEAN offers a thriving market stability and opportunity for trade to India and China *PHOTO: PTI*

AAP MLA detained under Public Safety Act in J&K

JAMMU, 8 SEPT

Mehraj Malik, the chief of AAP in Jammu and Kashmir, has been detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly disrupting public order in Doda district.

This marks the first occasion a sitting MLA has been taken into custody under the PSA, which allows detention without trial for up to two years. Malik was apprehended while attempting to visit flood-affected areas of his constituency and was subsequently moved to Bhaderwah district jail.

His detention follows protests by government employees supporting the deputy commissioner, whom Malik accused of orchestrating protests against him. Opposition leaders condemned such laws as they were weaponised to silence political voice. *—PTI*

Mehraj Malik *PHOTO: PTI*

'TARIFF BLACKMAIL'

Increasing trade barriers won't help: India at BRICS

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

"Increasing barriers and complicating transactions will not help. Neither would the linking of trade measures to non-trade matters," India said at a virtual BRICS summit on Monday.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the BRICS itself can set an example by reviewing trade flows among its member states. He added that the "state of the world today is a cause for genuine concern".

He listed the devastating impact of the Covid pandemic, major conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and volatility in trade and investment flows as well as extreme climate events as some of the major challenges. "The multilateral system appears to be failing the world," he said.

Xi calls for united response to face tariffs

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a unified response by the BRICS countries to trade challenges posed by the US, saying that Washington's tariff wars severely disrupted the world economy and undermined international trade rules.

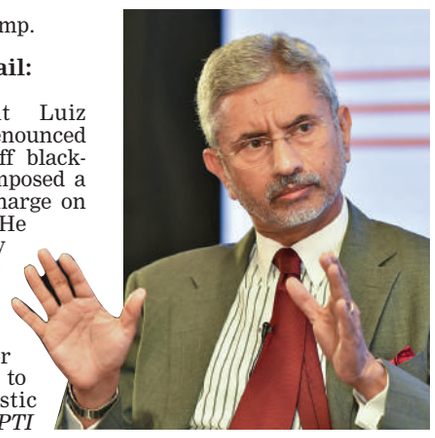
Speaking via a video link to the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) leaders' meeting convened by Brazilian President Lula De Silva, Xi said, "as we speak, transformation unseen in a century is accelerating across the world".

"Hegemonism, unilateralism, and protectionism are getting more and more rampant. Trade wars and tariff wars waged by some country severely disrupt the world economy and undermine international trade rules," he said, without directly naming the US or its President Donald Trump.

Stop tariff blackmail: Lula

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva denounced what he called "tariff blackmail" after the US imposed a 50 per cent import charge on Brazilian goods. He added that his country does not take orders from anybody.

"Tariff blackmail is being normalised as an instrument for market conquest and to interfere in domestic affairs," Lula said. *—PTI*



BJP can't sue T'gana CM for defamation: SC

Plea said Revanth Reddy delivered defamatory speech against BJP in LS poll campaign

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by the BJP's Telangana unit challenging a high court order quashing a defamation case against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his speech during the 2024 Lok Sabha poll campaign.

The court said it was not inclined to interfere in the matter.

The Telangana High Court acted on Reddy's plea seeking quashing of the proceedings in the case pending in a Hyderabad trial court.

The BJP's Telangana unit, represented by its general secretary, filed a complaint in May 2024 against Reddy, alleging that he delivered a defamatory and provocative speech against the party.

Reddy allegedly connived with the Telangana Congress to develop a fake political narrative that the BJP would end reservations **PHOTO: PTI**

Reddy allegedly connived with the Telangana Congress to develop a fake and dubious political narrative that the BJP would end reservations if it is voted to power.

The complainant claimed that the alleged defamatory speech lowered the BJP's reputation as a political party.

A trial court said that a prima facie case was made against Reddy for the alleged offences of defamation.

Reddy challenged the trial court order in the high court, contending that political speeches cannot be made a subject matter of defamation.

The high court subsequently noted, "Even if this court were to accept that the complainant is a part of the national unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he is not maintainable for the lack of authorisation."

It said neither the complainant nor its representative was authorised by the national unit of the BJP to file the complaint.The high court agreed with Reddy's contention that in the case of political speeches, the threshold to allege defamation and maintain a complaint under Section 199 should be higher. *—PTI*

SC judge recuses from hearing plea against Vedanta

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Supreme Court judge Justice K Vinod Chandran on Monday recused from hearing a plea seeking directions to authorities to investigate allegations made by US short seller Viceroy Research that billionaire Anil Agarwal's mining conglomerate was "financially unsustainable" and posed severe risk to creditors.

The court adjourned the plea filed by advocate Shakti Bhatia.

Bhatia said that he independently corroborated portions of the Viceroy report, particularly regarding undisclosed related-party transactions, by reviewing MCA21 filings, SEBI disclosures and Registrar of Companies records. Certain high-value transactions involved counterparties neither declared as related parties nor subjected to shareholder approval.*—PTI*

SC quizzes TN over acting DGP

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the Tamil Nadu government over appointment of an acting DGP and directed the UPSC to recommend names for making a regular appointment. The court heard a petition seeking contempt action against Tamil Nadu for appointing G Venkatraman as the DGP. The DGP could not be appointed as an office had filed a proceeding praying for inclusion of his name in the panel. *—PTI*

Vikash Yadav's bail denied by SC

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The Supreme Court has declined to extend the interim bail of Vikas Yadav, serving a 25-year sentence for the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case. Justices MM Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma advised Yadav's counsel to seek bail from the Delhi High Court instead. Yadav, 54, argued his upcoming marriage required him to arrange the Rs 54 lakh fine imposed on him. The court had extended his bail by one week. *—PTI*

Govt, ED to reply on scribe's bail

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The Supreme Court has requested responses from the Gujarat government and the Enforcement Directorate regarding journalist Mahesh Langa's bail plea tied to a money laundering investigation. Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi questioned the nature of Langa's journalism, highlighting multiple FIRs against him, including those for income tax evasion. He was arrested in 2024 for a GST fraud.*—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

1st church of teen saint consecrated in Kerala

KOCHI, 8 SEPT

As Pope Leo XIV canonised the London-born Italian Carlo Acutis on 7 September, a new church dedicated to the "millennial saint" was consecrated at Palikkara near Kerala's Kochi at around the same time. The church is among the first in the country dedicated to the teenage saint, who died of leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15. The initiative was that of Varapuzha Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil, who envisioned a church for the new generation dedicated to Saint Acutis. A chapel dedicated to Saint Acutis and Saint Antony is also being built nearby. Carlo Acutis, passionate about the Eucharist, created a website documenting miracles and was popularly known as "God's influencer".*—PTI*

2 held for waving Palestine flag in Uttar Pradesh

KANNAUJ, 8 SEPT

A case has been registered against two youths for waving the Palestine flag during a Barawafat procession here. While one of them has been arrested, the other will be sent to juvenile home. A video of a Palestine flag being waved during the procession of Barawafat in Gursahaiganj area went viral on social media. The accused were identified as 20-year-old Shoaib and a 16-year-old boy. A was registered against the two on Sunday under sections 152 and 196(2) of the BNS. A police official said an investigation is underway to find out from where the two got the Palestine flags. Barawfat processions are taken out to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.*—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Arunachal CM launches Kiwi Mission

ITANAGAR, 8 SEPT

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has launched the ambitious Kiwi Mission 2025-2035, a 10-year programme aimed at establishing the state as the leading hub for Kiwi cultivation, akin to Assam's association with tea. At a ceremony in Ziro, Khandu described the initiative as a "farming revolution that will redefine Arunachal Pradesh's role in India's agricultural map." The mission will establish model Kiwi orchards in 13 districts, with the Ziro Valley as its heart. Khandu emphasised the focus on sustainability, farmer empowerment, and international quality standards. The initiative will also include organic certification and export promotion for the fruit.*—PTI*

Kerala sees record Rs 970 cr liquor sale during Onam

THIR,PURAM, 8 SEPT

The Kerala State Beverages Corporation (KSBC) has achieved a record liquor sales total of Rs 970.74 crores from its Bevco outlets during the 12-day Onam season, from 25 August to 6 September. This marks a 9.34 per cent increase from the previous year's Rs 842.07 crores. The highest sales day was 4 September, Uthradam day, with Rs 137.64 crores collected, followed by Rs 96.52 crores on 3 September and Rs 90.43 crores on 2 September. Until Uthradam, KSBC sold Rs 826.38 crores. The highest sale in liquor was reported from the Karunagappally outlet on Uthradam, amounting to Rs 1.46 crores. There are 278 BEVCO outlets and 155 self-service stores in the state at present.*—PTI*

Death toll in brain fever reaches 5 in Kerala

MALLAPURAM, 8 SEPT

One more person succumbed to amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare and often fatal brain infection, in Kerala on Monday, taking the total toll since August to five in the state.

A 54-year-old woman, hailing from Vandoor in Mallapuram district, was the latest victim of the infection.

The deceased had been undergoing treatment at the government Medical College Hospital in neighbouring Kozhikode district, health officials said.

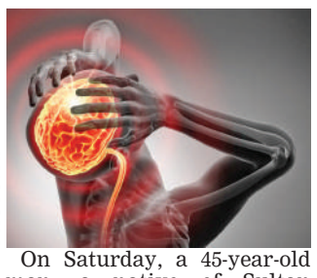


PHOTO: AI

On Saturday, a 45-year-old man, a native of Sultan Bathery in Wayanad, died.

Three people have died due to amoebic brain fever in the state in August. . An eight-year-old girl of Thamarassery, a three-month-old infant from Omassery in Kozhikode and a woman of Malappuram had succumbed to the infection.

Several people are still under treatment at the medical college in Kozhikode with the symptoms of the disease, the officials added.

In view of the situation, the Kerala Health Department recently issued special guidelines for the treatment of amoebic meningoencephalitis, the rare brain infection caused by free-living amoeba in contaminated waters.

Health officials are also conducting awareness campaigns in affected district. *—PTI*

People stand near murky water and a damaged house at a flood-affected area at Ghonewala village of Ajnala, in Amritsar district of Punjab on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

A video showing the father-in-law of Reena Singh hitting her with a stick and threatening to kill her **PHOTO: Screengrab**

BJP MP's sister alleges assault by in-laws

ETAH, 8 SEPT

BJP MP from Farrukhabad Mukesh Rajput's sister has filed a police complaint accusing her in-laws of assault.

According to the complaint, Reena Singh alleged that her father-in-law, Laxman Singh, and brothers-in-law, Rajesh and Girish, attacked her and threatened to kill her.

She claimed that on 7 September, Girish and Laxman Singh tried to record a video of her while having bath. When she objected, she was allegedly verbally abused and physically assaulted.

Her father-in-law took out a licensed rifle and threatened to kill her. He also hit her with a stick.

Rajeshallegedly attacked her with a sharp knife, injuring her hand, while Girish attacked her with an iron rod.

In her written complaint to police, Singh said that she continues to receive threats even after the assault.

An FIR was registered against Laxman Singh, Rajesh and Girish based on the complaint.

The police have also registered a case.

"The matter is being investigated and strict action will be taken against the culprits as per the law," a police official said. *—PTI*

HC junks plea against 'The Bengal Files'

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The Calcutta High Court on Monday dismissed a censorship request petition against the 'The Bengal Files', much to the relief of the filmmakers.

The petitioner, Santanu Mukherjee, claimed that his grandfather, Gopal Chandra Mukherjee, was depicted in a defamatory manner in Vivek Agnihotri's film, and sought a probe into what parameters were taken by the censor board before certifying the movie.

The film was based on the communal riots of August 1946 in Kolkata, known as the 'Great Calcutta Killings'.

"The petitioner intended to obtain certain information under RTI. The time period has expired," the court said.

Mukherjee's character was termed 'Patha', meaning a goat. He was an eminent freedom fighter, the petitioner said. The film wrongly depicted his grandfather as being involved in the communal riots. *—Agencies*

Floods damage Rs 780 cr health infrastructure in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, 8 SEPT

Floods in Punjab have damaged health infrastructure worth Rs 780 crore according to initial estimates, state Health Minister Balbir Singh said on Monday while asking the Central government to announce a relief package.

The floods caused extensive damage to crops, houses and other infrastructure.

Medical equipment and medicines worth Rs 130 crore were damaged. 1,280 dispensaries and health centres and 101 community health centres were damaged. 31 sub-divisional hospitals were also affected.

The health department with the assistance of NGOs is providing medical aid in flood-hit villages.

He has written to Health Minister JP Nadda on the damage.

Rains lashed Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala on Monday.

Meanwhile, torrential rains across Rajasthan triggered house collapses, landslides and flooding of rivers and streams, killing two and injuring several others. An elderly man was swept away.

Schools remained closed in several districts

An orange alert was issued in four districts and a yellow alert in six others.

A landslide struck the Mansa Devi hills in Haridwar on Monday, obstructing the Haridwar-Dehradun rail route. Efforts were underway to clear the debris on the rail route. *—PTI*

Rs 20,000 cr aid package is Punjab 's demand

Rats bit baby's finger: Tribal outfit

INDORE, 8 SEPT

Following the tragic death of a newborn girl at the government-run Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital, the tribal group Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti (JAYS) has alleged that rats gnawed the baby's fingers, accusing the hospital of misleading the public.

JAYS president Lokesh Mujalda demanded the suspension of the hospital superintendent and senior officials, as well as the registration of

culpable homicide charges.

"The family was devastated to find four fingers on the baby had allegedly been gnawed," Mujalda stated.

The infants were reportedly bitten by rats in the ICU during the night of 31 August and 1 September, although hospital authorities maintain the deaths were due to pre-existing health issues. Disciplinary actions have been taken against six officials, while the NHRC and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights have issued notices seeking inquiries. *—PTI*

EMPTY PROMISES IN J'KHAND

Villagers build road after bridge collapse

KUNTI, 8 SEPT

Nearly 300 people did 'shramdaan' (community voluntary labour) to construct a diversion road alongside a collapsed bridge on Banai River in Jharkhand's Khunti district, the head of Pelol village said.

Shiv Shanker Tiru, gram pradhan of Pelol village said that villagers were frustrated at the empty assurances of Khunti MLA Ram Surya Munda and the district administration. All suffered due to the absence of a diversion road.

"We pooled in Rs 10,000 using contributions from villagers, arranged stone chips, cement bags, sand from the river bank, soil and boulders, and hope to complete the diversion road construction by Monday evening. The diversion road stretch runs over 200 metres and is nearly five metres wide," he added.

Though Kunti MLA Ram Surya laid the foundation of the road in June, no work was undertaken by the department concerned **PHOTO: X**

Though the local MLA had laid the foundation stone of the road in June, no construction began.

The bridge collapsed on 19 June due to heavy rains. A viral video showed several school students scaling a 25-foot bamboo ladder to cross the collapsed bridge on their way to school. The administration stopped the practice and assured villagers that alternate arrangements would be made soon.

- Shiv Shanker Tiru, gram pradhan of Pelol village said that villagers were frustrated at the empty assurances given by Khunti MLA Ram Surya Munda and the district administration.

Repeated attempts to contact Khunti MLA and JMM leader Ram Surya Munda on his mobile phone went unanswered. Khunti Deputy Commissioner R. Ronita said, "We had informed the officials, and the tender work was completed." *—PTI*

Residents protest against toll plaza construction in Kumbla **PHOTO: PTI**

Locals oppose Kerala toll plaza construction

KASARAGOD, 8 SEPT

Residents of Kumbla held a protest on Monday against the construction of a temporary toll plaza on the National Highway-66 stretch at Arikkadi, disrupting traffic in the district.

The demonstration, led by Manjeshwar MLA AKM Ashraf, saw over 1,000 people march to the site around 10am, where they damaged temporary barricades and blocked construction work, prompting police intervention.

When protesters refused to disperse, police resorted to using water cannons, but the crowd insisted the toll plaza was "illegal".

Ashraf asserted, "The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways declared that there should be a minimum 60km distance between two toll plazas. But the proposed plaza here is barely 20km from Thalapadi." Protests will continue until the National NHAI abandons the plan. *—PTI*

BLACKOUT & OUTAGES: Is our digital world crumbling?

India's internet just hit the slow lane after undersea cables in the Red Sea were cut off on 7 August. The reason? Unknown. Power blackouts and internet failures are fast becoming the new normal. Incidentally, the World Economic Forum in 2021 flagged cybersecurity breakdowns as the decade's top threat and warned of a "catastrophic cyber event" by 2025. It may be recalled that the WEF promptly predicted a Covid-19-like pandemic in 2019.

SALAR NEWS TAKES A LOOK AT THE OUTAGES OF 2025

PAKISTAN

2 JAN, INTERNET OUTAGE

CAUSE: A fault in Asia-Africa-Europe-1 (AAE-1) submarine cable near Qatar. The AAE-1 system is a 25,000km long Internet cable connecting Southeast Asia to Europe.
DURATION: 2 hours.

RUSSIA

7 JAN, INTERNET OUTAGE

CAUSE: Russia's biggest pvt internet provider Nodex faced complete failure, reportedly due to a cyberattack by the Ukrainian Cyber Alliance.
DURATION: 2 hours.

NEPAL

2 FEB, INTERNET OUTAGE

CAUSE: Bharti Airtel cut bandwidth to Nepali internet service providers, causing outage. This was allegedly over a payment dispute.
DURATION: 5 hours.

SRI LANKA

9 FEB, POWER OUTAGE

CAUSE: A monkey encountered a grid transformer at Pandura electrical substation, which caused an island-wide power and internet outage.
Over 2.2 crore people were affected.
DURATION: 6 hours.

CHILE

25 FEB, POWER BACKOUT

CAUSE: The nationwide outage was triggered by a malfunction in software protection systems, leading to failure of a 500 kV high-voltage transmission line. **Restored on 26 Feb.**

- 14 out of 16 regions of the nation, and 98% of the population was without power.
- Transportation and mining industry were heavily hit.
- An overnight curfew and emergency of 8 hours was imposed.

EAST AFRICA

4 MARCH, INTERNET OUTAGE

- Under water cable PEACE was cut in the Red Sea, around 1,450 km from Zafarana, which affected internet in Economic Zones of Egypt, Singapore, and Sudan. It was repaired only by mid-April.

12 MAY

- Two submarine cables, SEACOM and EASSY, were damaged by a ship anchor, off South African coast. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mozambique, Malawi, and Madagascar were affected.
  It was repaired by 3 June.

BUENOS AIRES

5 MARCH, POWER OUTAGE

CAUSE: Sudden failure of a high-voltage power line led to two massive power failures in a day.

- 6 lakh were left suffering without electricity during a heatwave. Traffic was clogged up; subway passengers were stranded as several substations went offline.

DURATION: Several hours.

LONDON

21 MARCH, POWER OUTAGE AT SUBWAY STATIONS

CAUSE: Massive fire at power substation near Heathrow Airport, led to power grid failure.

- Airport shut for 1 day, leading to 120 flight diversions and cancellations; affected 2,00,000 passengers.

DURATION: 7 hours.

12 MAY, POWER OUTAGE

CAUSE: National Grid failure led to the shutdown of the metro stations.

- Some rail lines were either suspended or faced delays. Also, the Transport for London website crashed at the same time leaving, thousands of passengers stranded.

DURATION: Restored after a few hours.

OUTAGES CRIPPLE 'X'

10 MARCH, X HACKED

CAUSE: X faced a massive global outage, which Elon Musk later said was a cyberattack by an IP address originating in Ukraine. Musk hinted that a group or a country was behind it. Hacktivist group Dark Storm Team reportedly claimed credit.
DURATION: 24 hours.

28 MARCH, US OUTAGE

CAUSE: X recovered after a brief outage affecting 53,000+ users in the US; Reddit also experienced a simultaneous service disruption.
DURATION: Few hours.

23 & 24 MAY, GLOBAL OUTAGE

CAUSE: Issues at the data centre led to login/signup failures, delayed notifications, and premium feature disruptions. Reports also suggested a fire incident near a data centre in Hillsboro, Oregon in the US, may have contributed to the disruption.
DURATION: 48 hours.

PUERTO RICO

16 APRIL, POWER BLACKOUT

CAUSE: All the energy plants across the island unexpectedly shut down amid the nation's crumbling power infrastructure.

- Genera, the country's power generator, said all its facilities had gone "offline".
- 1.4 crore customers were without electricity, while 3,28,000 were without water.

DURATION: 2 days.

IBERIAN NATIONS

28 APRIL, POWER BLACKOUT

CAUSE: Europe's biggest outage shut down hospitals, flights, factories, nuclear plants, traffic lights and transport in **Spain, Portugal, Andorra, France, Morocco and Greenland**.

- Multiple investigations ruled out a cyberattack. Preliminary analysis suggested "low frequency power swings" between the Iberian Peninsula and the European grid caused disconnection and transmission instability. The exact cause remains under investigation till date.
- 8 deaths occurred due to medical equipment failures.

DURATION: 7 to 10 hours.

FRANCE

24 MAY, POWER OUTAGE

CAUSE: A group of anarchists set fire to 1 high-voltage substation.

- 1,60,000 households were affected. Final day screenings of Cannes Film Festival were disrupted as well.

DURATION: 5 hours.

25 MAY, POWER OUTAGE

CAUSE: Another high-voltage electrical transformer was set ablaze, affecting 45,000 people in Nice. **DURATION:** 4 hours.

CHATGPT

10 JUNE AND 16 JULY, GLOBAL OUTAGE

CAUSE: Users in India, the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and parts of Asia faced issues as free and paid ChatGPT, Sora, and Chatbot services stopped working.

- OpenAI blamed an internal issue, which was causing errors and slow responses across ChatGPT and its Application Programming Interface. It said the engineers found the root cause, but no detailed explanation was given.
- Experts attributed it to a possible server-side overload or technical fault.

DURATION: 16 hours.

GOOGLE CLOUD

12 JUNE, GLOBAL OUTAGE

CAUSE: A misconfigured quota update in Google Cloud's system caused cascading failures in backend Application Programming Interfaces, disrupting multiple services worldwide.

- Gmail, Drive, Meet, Calendar, Chat, Cloud Console, Spotify, Discord, Snapchat, Replit, Shopify, GitHub, and others service were hit.

DURATION: 24 hours.

AT&T

16 JUNE, SERVICE OUTAGE

CAUSE: Services were disrupted due to internal misconfiguration during a routine network expansion.
DURATION: 24 hours.

US

19 JUNE, INTERNET OUTAGE

CAUSE: The govt blamed the massive outage on technical failure. Major service providers including CenturyLink, Quantum Fiber and Brightspeed were hit, but no official cause was disclosed.

- 45,000 customers lost broadband access across multiple states, especially in Colorado. Users experienced full connectivity loss and slow internet speed.

DURATION: 2.5 hours.

PRAGUE & CZECH REPUBLIC

4 JULY, POWER BLACKOUT.

CAUSE: A high-voltage phase conductor on the main transmission line snapped, causing cascading failures at multiple substations and grid fragmentation.

- Up to 1 million customers affected; metro lines halted; trams, trains, elevators, traffic lights, ATMs and factories disrupted; hospitals resorted to backup generators; over 215 elevator rescues reported.

DURATION: Power restoration began within 3 hours; full repairs were completed in 6–7 hours.

STARLINK

24 JULY, GLOBAL OUTAGE

CAUSE: Elon Musk's Starlink faced failure in key internal software services that led to a system crash. Starlink is a satellite internet constellation by SpaceX that uses thousands of low Earth orbit satellites to provide high-speed internet.

- 60,000 users across the US, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia lost connectivity, including residential, commercial, and military users (notably Ukraine's armed forces).

DURATION: 2.5 hours.

INDIA'S UPI OUTAGES

12 MARCH

CAUSE: Unified Payments Interface aka UPI faced its 1st outage in 2025, affecting digital payment platforms such as Google Pay, Paytm, PhonePe and several banks.
Over 60 lakh transactions disrupted.
Technical glitches were cited as reason.
DURATION: 95 minutes.

26 MARCH

CAUSE: Technical issues at National Payments Corporation of India, an umbrella organisation for operating retail payment, disrupted transactions across Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm and banks. Downdetector saw around 2,750 reports.
DURATION: 1 hour 45 minutes.

31 MARCH

CAUSE: Banks faced technical issues due to the financial year-end rush, leading to the servers crashing down.

- 1.5 crore failed transactions reported.

DURATION: 25 minutes.

2 APRIL

CAUSE: Google Pay, Paytm, and PhonePe faced outages due to increased UPI network latency, causing transaction delays and failures.
DURATION: 30 minutes.

12 APRIL

CAUSE: The longest outage happened because some banks sent too many transaction status requests to NPCI, causing the system to overload. About 2,300 complaints were reported.
DURATION: 5 hours.

MUMBAI AIRPORT

9 AUG, DATA NETWORK OUTAGE

CAUSE: A third-party network failure triggered outage at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport's check-in counters, which delayed flights. The airport is operated by the Gautam Adani Group.
DURATION: An hour.

BROADBAND, INTERNET OUTAGE

18 AUG & 24 AUG; AIRTEL, JIO FACE MASSIVE OUTAGES

CAUSE: Network outage affected mobile calls and mobile internet across multiple cities including Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Patna, and Ahmedabad.

- Complaints ranged from call drops to slow internet speeds and signal loss.

DURATION: Outage started around 3pm. By 10.30pm, most issues were resolved in various areas.

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PHOTO: ANI

Thaksin returns to Thailand before court hearing

BANGKOK, 8 SEPT

Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra returned to Bangkok on Monday after his unexpected trip to Dubai, just a day before a court ruling that may lead to his imprisonment. Thaksin was spotted exiting the private jet terminal at Don Mueang International Airport via a livestream video on Monday afternoon. Last week, Thaksin flew to Dubai. Thaksin spent years in Dubai during his self-imposed exile beginning in 2008, where he maintained regular consultations with local physicians. The Supreme Court is scheduled to rule on Tuesday regarding whether officials mishandled his 2023 return to Thailand, which was intended for him to commence an eight-year sentence related to three cases of corruption and abuse of power. *—PTI*

Teenager kills two cops at Turkish police station

ANKARA, 8 SEPT

A 16-year-old masked assailant attacked a police station in western Turkey on Monday, resulting in the deaths of two police officers, according to media reports and officials. At least six other individuals, including fellow officers, sustained injuries in the incident, which took place in the Balcova district of Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city. The assailant has been arrested, and the motive for the attack is currently under investigation, revealed Izmir's chief prosecutor, Ali Yeldan, at the scene. NTV reported that the teenager carried out the assault mere days after being released from custody, allegedly in retaliation for mistreatment he experienced at the police station. Sources indicated that he used a pump-action shotgun during the attack. *—PTI*

Norwegians head to polls amid wealth tax debate

OSLO, 8 SEPT

Norwegians headed to the polls Monday to elect a new parliament, with the long-standing wealth tax at the forefront of the campaign. Around 4.3 million voters will choose members for the 169-seat Storting, with a tight race anticipated between Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre's Labour Party and a right-wing bloc. "Scrapping the tax would cost 34 billion kroner (USD 3.3 billion) per year," Labour argues, while the Conservatives advocate for its reduction, and the Progress Party seeks to abolish it entirely. Official results are expected Tuesday, followed by weeks of coalition negotiations. Norway's foreign policy is unlikely to shift, given its NATO membership and backing of Ukraine. *—PTI*

Liberation War veteran & Yunus' critic arrested

DHAKA, 8 SEPT

Bangladesh police on Monday said they arrested 1971 Liberation War veteran and former bureaucrat Abu Alam Shahid Khan, a prominent critic of Muhammad Yunus's interim government, amid a series of detentions of dissenting voices since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's regime. Police said that five others were also arrested in the same drive for participating in "flash marches", impromptu street protests frequently staged by activists of the now-disbanded Awami League. Khan, a retired secretary in the Bangladesh government, had in recent months been criticising the interim government on social media platforms. Khan is the fourth prominent critic of the interim government to be arrested in recent weeks. *—PTI*

Protesters clash with the riot police outside the Parliament building in Kathmandu, Nepal, Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Curfew imposed in Nepal after protests

Eyewitnesses say cops were firing blindly

KATHMANDU, 8 SEPT

Nepalese government has imposed curfews across multiple districts, including the capital Kathmandu, as nationwide protests intensified. The unrest pushed hospitals to capacity and heightened tensions between the state and its citizens.

The curfew was enforced in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Pokhara, Butwal, and Itahari (Sunsari district), with authorities banning all public gatherings, marches, or sit-ins. "No movement of people, demonstration, meeting, gathering or sit-in will be allowed in the restricted zone," said Chief District Officer Chhabi Lal Rijal. Restrictions have also been extended to areas around key government institutions including Rastrapati Bhawan, the Vice-President's residence, and the Prime Minister's Office.

The Health Ministry reported at least 347 people injured in the clashes.

Eyewitnesses have accused the police of using excessive force. One protester said, "They fired bullets which missed me but hit a friend standing behind me. He was hit in the hand." Outside hospitals, anxious families waited for updates while others rushed to donate blood.

The protests erupted after the government banned several social-media platforms. While officials claim the move is to enforce regulation, many citizens view it as a crackdown on free speech and a pathway to censorship.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli defended the ban, saying the government opposes "arrogance" and accused protesters of being "puppets who only oppose for the sake of opposing."

Meanwhile, journalists staged a demonstration at Maitighar Mandala against the ban. A youth-led online campaign, "Nepo Kid", has also gained momentum, targeting the children of politicians and elites for benefiting from corruption and nepotism, further fuelling public outrage. *—PTI*

GAZA HORROR

6 die in shooting at Jerusalem bus stop

JERUSALEM, 8 SEPT

Attackers opened fire at a bus stop at a busy intersection in north Jerusalem on Monday, killing six people and injuring another 12 people, according to Israeli police and emergency rescue services.

Police said the attackers shot people waiting at a bus stop, while Israeli media reported the attackers also boarded a crowded bus and opened fire inside.

A security officer and a civilian who were at the scene shot and killed the attackers. The shooting took place at a major intersection at the northern entrance to Jerusalem, on a road that leads to Jewish settlements located in east Jerusalem.

The Israeli military said it is encircling Palestinian villages on the outskirts of the nearby occupied West Bank city of Ramallah as it steps up defence in response to the attack.

Hamas hailed the attack without claiming responsibility, calling it a "natural response to the occupation's crimes against our people." *—PTI*

Israel's bombardment on Gaza City. Israel also bombed northeastern Lebanon -near the Syria border, killing five people **PHOTO: PTI**

Trump gives 'final warning' to Hamas

WASHINGTON/ JERUSALEM, 8 SEPT

US President Donald Trump issued a final warning to Hamas, urging them to release the hostages. Hamas responded, reiterating that it was prepared to ""immediately sit at the negotiating table".

"Everyone wants the Hostages HOME. Everyone wants this War to end! The Israelis have accepted my Terms. It is time for Hamas to accept as well. I have warned Hamas about the consequences of not accepting. This is my last warning, there will not be another one!" he wrote on Truth Social.

Hamas said it welcomes any move to stop Israel's aggression, while reiterating its demands for a military withdrawal and "a clear declaration to end the war". *—Agencies*

> **A powerful hurricane will strike the skies of Gaza City, and the roofs of the terror towers will shake.... Release the hostages and lay down your weapons—or Gaza will be destroyed**
>
> —Israel Katz, Israel Defence Minister

Israel apex court says govt starving Palestinians

TEL AVIV, 8 SEPT

In a highly rare exercise of wartime legal restraint, Israel's Supreme Court ruled Sunday that the Israeli government has deprived Palestinian detainees of food and ordered authorities to increase the amount and improve the quality of food served to Palestinian inmates.

The three-judge panel ruled unanimously that the Israeli government had a legal duty to provide Palestinian prisoners with three meals a day to ensure "a basic level of existence".

In a 2-1 decision, the court furthermore accepted the petition filed last year by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel and the Israeli rights group Gisha, siding with their allegations that the government's deliberate restriction of prisoners' food in Israeli detention facilities has caused Palestinians to suffer malnutrition and starvation during the Israel-Hamas war.

"We are not speaking here of comfortable living or luxury, but of the basic conditions of survival as required by law," the ruling said. "Let us not share in the ways of our worst enemies." *—PTI*

Trump 'ready' for 2nd round of sanctions on Russia

WASHINGTON, 8 SEPT

US President Donald Trump has said that he is "ready" to impose a second round of sanctions on Russia after Moscow struck Ukraine's main government building in its largest drone-attack in the nearly three-year long war.

Responding to a question from reporters at the White House on Sunday on whether he was prepared to impose sanctions on Russia, he said ""Yeah, I am". He did not provide any further details.

Trump had earlier said that he had "phase two" and "phase three" of sanctions that he would impose on Russia and its trading partners – namely India and China.

Later, while returning from the US Open finals Trump said that he plans to call Russian President Vladimir Putin while several European leaders are going to visit the US on Monday and Tuesday for a "very interesting discussion"

- Trump said that he was going to call Putin soon and get the Russia-Ukraine situation "done" as he prepares to host European leaders. He added that the war doesn't affect the US

"Over the next couple of days, we're going to get it done," Trump said. "We're going to get it done. Have confidence."

Trump expressed deep dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.

"Nobody was tougher on Russia than I was," Trump said. "But I'm not happy.... It's interesting--it doesn't affect us. It's not our soldiers. It's a horrible waste of humanity.... (But) . We have to (get it done)."

—Salar News with Agencies

Would have to refund 50% of tariffs: US official on SC case

WASHINGTON, 8 SEPT

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the government would have to refund "about half the tariffs," amounting to billions of dollars, if the American Supreme Court overturns Trump's tariffs.

During an interview with broadcaster NBC, Bessent said that if the Supreme Court ruled that Trump overstepped his boundaries by using opaque wartime-laws to impose tariffs on nearly every country, "We would have to give a refund on about half the tariffs, which would be terrible for the Treasury".

While remaining confident that the government would prevail, he said, "If the court says it, we'd have to do it".

- A federal appeals court ruled on 29 August that Trump had overstepped by introducing "reciprocal tariffs" as part of his "liberation day" announcement

He said that any alternative approach would weaken Trump's negotiating tactics, while saying that, "there are numerous other avenues that we can take,"

A federal appeals court ruled on 29 August that Trump had overstepped by introducing "reciprocal tariffs" as part of his "liberation day" announcement. However, it paused its ruling to give the government time to challenge its ruling in the Supreme Court, which Trump promptly did.

—Salar News with Agencies

WHO urges Taliban to let in female workers after quake

KABUL, 8 SEPT

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on Afghanistan's Taliban regime to remove restrictions on female aid workers following a devastating earthquake in the eastern part of the country. Because of the Taliban's 'no skin' rule, men and women cannot have physical contact, meaning that male rescue workers had not been allowed to touch women victims.

The 1 September quake, measuring 6 in magnitude, resulted in 2,200 deaths, over 3,600 injuries.

Dr Mukta Sharma, deputy representative of WHO's Afghanistan office, stated, "A very big issue now is the increasing paucity of female staff in these places," with approximately 90 per cent of medical personnel in the affected areas being male.

Survivors, such as 19-year-old Aysha from Kunar Province, said, "No one offered the women help…or even approached them." *—Agencies*

NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

French PM's fate is on the line... again

PARIS, 8 SEPT

France risks losing its third prime minister in 12 months on Monday, with incumbent Francois Bayrou facing a parliamentary confidence vote that he called but is widely expected to lose, heralding more instability for the European Union's second-largest economy.

The 74-year-old Centrist Prime Minister, appointed by President Emmanuel Macron just under nine months ago, is gambling that the vote will unite lawmakers in the sharply divided National Assembly behind proposed public spending cuts that Bayrou argues are needed to rein in France's spiralling state deficit and debts.

The National Assembly of 577 lawmakers is interrupting its summer recess for the extraordinary session that Bayrou requested.

Bayrou needs a majority of "for" votes to survive. If a majority votes against, France's constitution decrees that Bayrou would have to submit his government's resignation to Macron, plunging France into renewed crisis.

The 47-year-old President is paying a steep price for his stunning decision to dissolve the National Assembly in June 2024, triggering legislative elections that the French leader hoped would strengthen the hand of his pro-European centrist alliance in parliament's lower house. But the gamble backfired, producing a splintered legislature with no dominant political bloc in power for the first time in France's modern republic.

The political uncertainty has largely hobbled Macron's domestic ambitions in his second and last presidential term, which ends in 2027. Shorn of a workable majority in parliament for his centrist alliance, Macron has since rotated through three prime ministers, attempting to build consensus and stave off government collapse. *—PTI*

PM Francois Bayrou & President Emmanuel Macron **PHOTO: X**

'India's immigration law will make minorities leave Dhaka'

DHAKA, 8 SEPT

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC), has warned that India's new 'Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025' could increase the tendency for indigenous and ethnic minorities to leave their country and urged Dhaka to take effective measures to halt the marginalisation of minorities.

On 1 September, India enforced the 'Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025'. The new law grants exemptions to minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who sought refuge in India by 31 December, 2024, because they faced or feared religious persecution.

The previous Citizenship Act had set the deadline for these groups at 31 December, 2014.

Bangladesh's largest minority group said in a statement that this act will increase the tendency for religious and ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples in Bangladesh to leave the country. It emphasised that Bangladesh must seriously consider the policy behind India's decision and its potential long-term impact on the country.

"Consequently, the interim government must immediately take necessary and effective steps to restore confidence and address the trust crisis among the nation's religious and ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples," the minority leaders said in the statement. *—ANI*

Infosys to consider share buyback proposal on 11 Sept

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

India's second-largest IT services company Infosys on Monday said its board will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares on 11 September. Infosys' BSE intimation on buyback did not provide other details. "...the Board of Directors of Infosys Limited will consider a proposal for buyback of fully paid-up equity shares of the company at its meeting to be held on 11 September, 2025," the company said in a regulatory filing. The outcome of the board meeting will be disseminated to the stock exchanges after the conclusion of the board meeting on 11 September, 2025, it added. It is pertinent to mention here that the Bengaluru-headquartered company had, in 2022, announced a share buyback of Rs 9,300 crore via an open market route for a maximum price of Rs 1,850 per equity share. se studies, the company said. *—PTI*

Mankind starts clinical trial for autoimmune drugs

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Mankind Pharma on Monday said it has received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to initiate a Phase 1 clinical trial for a molecule under development for the treatment of multiple autoimmune disorders. The molecule is being developed for the treatment of multiple autoimmune disorders, including rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis, and alopecia. Developed at the Mankind Research Centre, MKP11093 has shown strong results in The Phase 1 trial is expected to begin shortly and will evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of MKP11093 in healthy volunteers through single and multiple-ascending dose studies, the company said. *—PTI*

Glass Wall Systems files for IPO to raise funds

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Glass Wall Systems (India) Ltd has filed draft papers with SEBI for an initial public offering (IPO) to raise funds. The IPO includes a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 60 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 4.02 crore shares by promoters and investors India Business Excellence Fund IIA and Vistra ITCL. Proceeds will fund a GPU Project at its Vile Bhagad facility, Maharashtra, and general corporate purposes. With over 150 projects completed, the company posted Rs 44 crore net profit on Rs 245 crore revenue in FY25. IIFL Capital and Motilal Investment Advisors are lead managers to the issue. *—PTI*

Flipspaces raises Rs 439 cr to expand business

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Interior design startup Flipspaces has raised about Rs 439 crore from investors to expand business in India and overseas. In a statement on Monday, the company has raised USD 50 million in its expanded Series C funding round with fresh participation from UAE-headquartered CE-Invests, Singapore-based Panthera Growth Partners, and Japan's SMBC Asia Rising Fund. The round also facilitated the successful exit of early-stage investor Carpe Diem. "The entry of new investors alongside the continued faith of current ones underscores Flipspaces' strong fundamentals and global growth potential. We are building not just a company, but a technology-first ecosystem that is reshaping the future of interior design and building globally," Kunal Sharma, Founder & CEO of Flipspaces, said. *—PTI*

GDP may take 0.6% hit due to Trump's tariffs, warns CEA

Says impact will be bigger if tariffs continue

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has warned that the United States' decision to impose a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian exports could shave 0.5 to 0.6 per cent off India's GDP in the current financial year.

Speaking to Bloomberg TV, Nageswaran said, "I hope the additional penal tariff is a short-lived phenomenon. Depending on how long it lasts, it may translate into a GDP impact of somewhere between 0.5 to 0.6 per cent." He cautioned that the impact could be "larger" if the tariff uncertainty persists into the next financial year, calling it a "major risk" for India.

US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian exports last month, citing continued Indian oil imports from Russia. The 50 per cent tariff, the highest in Asia, makes Indian goods less competitive, especially compared to exports from Vietnam and Bangladesh.

The tariffs are expected to hurt labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery the most. The US is India's largest export market.

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran called the tariffs a major risk for India **PHOTO: PTI**

Despite the setback, Nageswaran reaffirmed the government's growth forecast of 6.3 to 6.8 per cent for FY26, buoyed by strong April–June GDP growth of 7.8 per cent, the highest in over a year.

He highlighted recent GST reforms, falling inflation, now at an eight-year low, and a strong fiscal position as key tailwinds. The government aims to meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent, supported by a central bank dividend and asset sales.

Meanwhile, exporters fear losing market share to competing nations benefiting from India's increased export costs. *—Agencies*

FM to soon rollout aid to exporters hit by US tariffs

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The government is working on a comprehensive relief package for exporters impacted by the steep 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in an interview with PTI. A multi-departmental assessment is underway, with ministries gathering feedback from stakeholders to gauge the extent of the impact.

The second phase of the tariffs, an additional 25 per cent, took effect on 27 August. The duties, among the highest globally, include penalties for India's continued crude oil imports from Russia. On 7 August, the Trump administration imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, citing long-standing trade barriers.

Sectors hit include labour-intensive industries such as textiles, gems and jewellery, shrimp, leather, animal products, chemicals, and mechanical machinery. Pharma, energy, and electronics are currently excluded. *—PTI*

SpiceJet pays ₹211cr to Suisse

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

SpiceJet has completed the full payment of Rs 211.26 crore ($24 million) to Credit Suisse, fulfilling a settlement agreement reached in May 2022. Originally, Credit Suisse and SR Technics had a total claim of USD 41.77 million, later settled for USD 24 million under a structured plan. The liability, linked to legacy commercial arrangements, predated the tenure of the airline's current promoter.

"This settlement not only brings closure to an old liability but also demonstrates our resolve and ability to meet commitments despite a challenging operating environment," said Debojo Maharshi, Chief Business Officer.

Separately, the airline expects to bring 10 grounded aircraft back into service by April 2026. As of June-end, only 21 of its 56 aircraft were operational, down from 25 of 61 in March 2025. Of the operational fleet, 8 were Boeing 737-800s, 6 Q400s, 3 Boeing 737-700s, and one each of Boeing 737-900 and Boeing 737 MAX.

SpiceJet plans to unground 4–5 aircraft ahead of the winter peak and has secured maintenance slots globally, with 19 engines already dispatched for overhaul.

On 5 September, SpiceJet reported a net loss of Rs 238 crore for Q1 FY26, compared to a Rs 150 crore profit a year earlier. Total income fell to Rs 1,190.56 crore from Rs 2,067.21 crore.

To boost capacity, the airline has signed damp lease agreements for 10 Boeing 737s, set for induction from October. Further discussions are underway for additional narrow-body and wide-body aircraft inductions in October and November 2025. SpiceJet shares fell 2.90 per cent to Rs 33.45 on the BSE in late afternoon trade. *—PTI*

Sensex edged higher by 76.54 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 80,787.30 despite profit-booking by investors in the last hour **PHOTO: PTI**

Mkts end higher in-line with firm global trends

MUMBAI, 8 SEPT

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed with gains on Monday, tracking a firm trend in global markets amid hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve later this month.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged higher by 76.54 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 80,787.30 despite profit-booking by investors in the last hour of the session.

The barometer opened higher and later jumped 460.62 points or 0.57 per cent to a high of 81,171.38 as auto, oil and private bank shares advanced. However, selling in IT and FMCG shares trimmed gains at the fag-end.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 32.15 points or 0.13 per cent at 24,773.15.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors rose the most by 3.97 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra jumped by 3.96 per cent. Maruti, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were also among the gainers.

However, Trent declined 3.81 per cent. Asian Paints, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, , L&T, TCS, Power Grid and Sun Pharma were also among the laggards. *—PTI*

Luxury carmakers slash prices

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Luxury carmakers Audi, Lexus, and Nissan India have announced significant price cuts across their product portfolios to fully pass on the benefits of the recent GST rate reduction on automobiles.

Audi India has lowered prices by Rs 2.6 lakh to over Rs 7.8 lakh across models. Following the implementation of GST 2.0, the entry-level SUV Q3 now starts at Rs 43.07 lakh (down from Rs 46.14 lakh), while the top-end Q8 starts at Rs 1.1 crore (down from Rs 1.18 crore). Other popular models like the Q5, Q7, A4, and A6 also see notable price reductions. Audi stated the revised pricing makes its luxury cars more accessible and is expected to boost demand ahead of the festive season.

Lexus India has gone further, announcing price cuts of up to Rs 20.8 lakh across its entire lineup. The revised prices, effective from 22 September, will see the ES 300h sedan reduced by up to Rs 1.47 lakh and the flagship LX 500d SUV by up to Rs 20.8 lakh. Lexus India President Hikaru Ikeuchi called the GST reform a "historic move" and said the initiative will enhance accessibility and spark demand during the festive season.

Meanwhile, Nissan Motor India has reduced prices of its compact SUV Magnite by up to Rs 1 lakh. The revised pricing will apply to all deliveries from 22 September, the first day of Navratri, although bookings at new prices have opened immediately.

The GST-driven price cuts are expected to energise the auto market ahead of the crucial festive period. *—PTI*

Dish TV eyes 25% revenue from non-DTH biz

ARPORA, 8 SEPT

Dish TV India is targeting 25 per cent of its revenue from non-DTH businesses over the next 18–24 months, as part of a strategic shift beyond traditional television services, CEO and Executive Director Manoj Dobhal said.

The company has launched its VZY (Vibe, Zone & You) smart TV range, integrating DTH and OTT content in a single device. Currently, non-DTH services contribute around 10 per cent of revenue. "This is just the beginning," Dobhal said, adding that Dish TV aims to become a comprehensive content ecosystem player, spanning devices, streaming, and linear TV.

The VZY range includes seven models from 32-inch HD to 55-inch 4K UHD QLED TVs, priced between Rs 12,000 and Rs 45,000. The TVs run on Google TV, but Dish TV plans to launch its own operating system within two years.

Dish TV previously launched the OTT platform Watcho and recently rolled out quick-commerce platform Shopzop, which now lists over 4,000 products.

In FY25, the company posted Rs 1,567.6 crore in revenue, down from Rs 1,856.5 crore in FY24, largely due to a fall in Pay TV subscribers and stagnant ARPU. *—PTI*

Gold falls ₹200 to Rs ₹1,07,670/10

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Gold prices retreated from record levels to trade at Rs 1,07,670 per 10 grams on Monday in the national capital due to fresh selling by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity also fell by Rs 200 to Rs 1,06,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

On Saturday, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity surged Rs 900 each to hit record highs of Rs 1,07,870 per 10 grams and Rs 1,07,000 per 10 grams, respectively, in the national capital.

Silver also came under selling pressure, tumbling by Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,26,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal scaled a lifetime high of Rs 1,27,000 per kg on Saturday.

Meanwhile, in the futures market, gold and silver rebounded sharply from early losses and hit fresh peaks.

"Gold remains in the bull's control; the price opened slightly lower in the early trade on Monday. However, it recovered from earlier losses and traded higher, supported by safe-haven demand, rate cut expectations, and a steady US dollar," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities. *—PTI*

ISRAEL, INDIA SIGN DEAL TO BOOST TRADE TIES

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

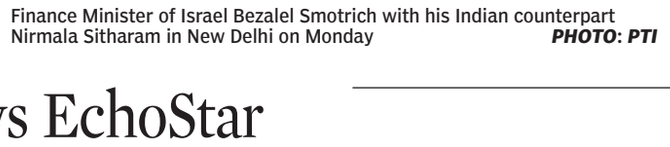
India and Israel have signed a new Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) aimed at boosting reciprocal investments and strengthening economic cooperation. The agreement was signed in New Delhi by Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

According to Israel's Ministry of Finance, this marks the first such strategic investment agreement India has signed with an OECD member, aligning with India's new model for investment treaties. The new BIA replaces the earlier agreement signed in 1996, which was terminated in 2017.

The pact aims to ensure greater protection and certainty for investors from both countries, promoting enhanced trade and investment flows.

Both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in innovation, infrastructure development, financial regulation, and digital trade. They also agreed to explore collaboration through regional development banks.

Both sides will examine establishing a bilateral financial protocol to improve financing conditions for Israeli exporters. Israel is also considering opening a financial representation in India to strengthen institutional ties. *—ANI*



Finance Minister of Israel Bezalel Smotrich with his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharam in New Delhi on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

SpaceX buys EchoStar wireless spectrum for $17B

HAWTHORNE, 8 SEPT

Elon Musk's SpaceX has reached a deal worth about USD 17 billion with EchoStar for spectrum licenses that it will use to beef up its Starlink satellite network.

The deal for EchoStar's AWS-4 and H-block spectrum licenses includes up to USD 8.5 billion in cash and up to USD 8.5 billion in SpaceX stock. SpaceX will make approximately USD 2 billion in cash interest payments on EchoStar debt through November 2027.

SpaceX and EchoStar will enter into a long-term commercial agreement which will allow EchoStar's Boost Mobile subscribers to access SpaceX's next generation Starlink Direct to Cell service.

Last month AT&T said that it will spend USD 23 billion to acquire wireless spectrum licenses from EchoStar, a significant expansion of its low- and mid-band coverage networks.

EchoStar said that it anticipates that the AT&T deal and the SpaceX transaction will resolve recent inquiries from the Federal Communications Commission about the rollout of 5G technology in the US. *—PTI*

AI'S HIDDEN COST

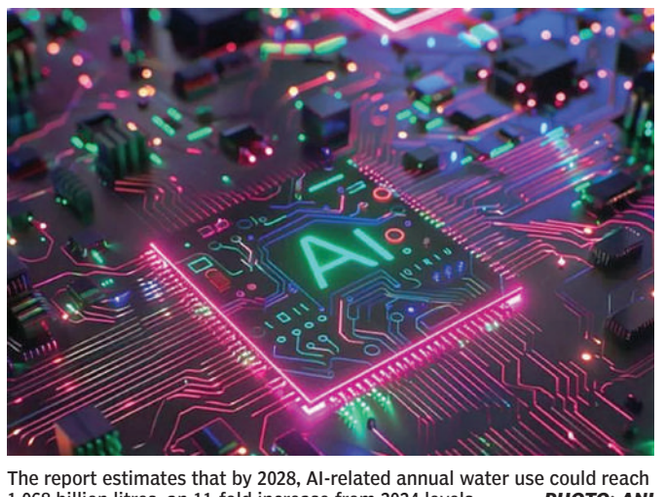
Data centres to push 11-fold rise in water usage

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Global water consumption by Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres is set to increase dramatically, driven by rising demand for cooling and electricity generation, according to a new report by Morgan Stanley.

The report estimates that by 2028, AI-related annual water use could reach 1,068 billion litres, an 11-fold increase from 2024 levels. While direct water use for data centre cooling is well known, the report highlights that indirect use via electricity generation is often overlooked. The broader AI water footprint also includes semiconductor manufacturing, with some facilities consuming up to 5 million gallons of ultrapure water daily.

Water consumption projections vary depending on technology choices and regional energy mixes. Morgan Stanley outlined three possible scenarios, with AI's annual water use ranging from 637 billion litres to 1,485 billion litres by 2028.



The report estimates that by 2028, AI-related annual water use could reach 1,068 billion litres, an 11-fold increase from 2024 levels **PHOTO: ANI**

The AI sector's water use spans three scopes:

- **Scope 1:** On-site data centre cooling.
- **Scope 2:** Electricity generation (the largest share).
- **Scope 3:** Semiconductor manufacturing

Although AI's overall global water use remains modest, the report warns of significant localised impacts, as over half of the world's top data centre hubs are located in regions already facing medium to high water stress, drought, and declining water quality.

With secondary data centre markets also emerging in water-stressed regions, the report underscores the urgency of adopting efficient cooling and energy solutions. *—ANI*

PHOTO: X/@TRISERIES

Nawaz's hat trick leads Pakistan to tri-series victory

SHARJAH, 8 SEPT

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz claimed a hat trick and inspired Pakistan to a 75-run win in the final of the Twenty20 tri-series as Afghanistan crashed to its second-lowest-ever T20 score of 66. Afghanistan's spinners, led by Rashid Khan's 3-38, had earlier limited Pakistan to 141-8, which was the lowest total by teams batting first in the tournament that also featured the United Arab Emirates."It was the kind of wicket where even 130-140 was always going to be challenging, and once we got there, we knew it would be tough for them," Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha said. Pakistan 141 for 8 (Zaman 27, Nawaz 25, Rashid 3-38) beat Afghanistan 66 (Nawaz 5-19, Muqeem 2-9, Abrar 2-17) by 75 runs.—*PTI*

Ananya, Divyanshi strike gold in WTT Youth Star

SKOPJE, 8 SEPT

Ananya Muralidharan and Divyanshi Bhowmick produced a spirited performance to clinch the under-15 girls' doubles gold at the WTT Youth Star Contender here, edging past China's Zhao Wangqi and Liu Ziling 3-2 in a pulsating final.The Indian pair showed remarkable grit in a see-saw battle that tested both nerves and stamina.After trading games with the Chinese, Ananya and Divyanshi kept their composure in the tense decider, saving crucial match points before sealing the contest 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 6-11, 14-12.Their ability to soak up pressure and respond with attacking strokes in tense moments proved decisive in landing India the top podium finish. Earlier in the semifinals, the duo had overcome compatriots Riana Bhoota and Ankolika Chakravarty 3-1 (11-2, 10-12, 11-3, 11-6), with Riana and Ankolika eventually settling for bronze. India's medal tally was further bolstered by P.B.—*PTI*

Mohammed Siraj nominated for ICC's Player of Month

DUBAI, 8 SEPT

India pacer Mohammed Siraj was on Monday nominated for ICC's Player of the Month Award for August for his heroics in the fifth and final Test of the England tour, along with New Zealand's Matt Henry and West Indies' Jayden Seales. In a series marked by injuries to several players from both teams, Siraj stood tall and featured in all five Tests to play a decisive role with 23 wickets, the highest by any bowler in the rubber. Siraj bowled 185.3 overs across the five Tests to help a young and inexperienced Indian team to force a 2-2 draw.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@CPJ MENA

Rory McIlroy wins Irish Open playoff

STRAFFAN, 8 SEPT

Rory McIlroy couldn't have asked for a better homecoming. He holed a 28-foot eagle putt on the 72nd hole for a 6-under 66, and it got him into a playoff that he won against Joakim Lagergren in the Irish Open. McIlroy won for the fourth time this year, following victories at Pebble Beach, The Players Championship, and the Masters to complete the career Grand Slam. McIlroy and Lagergren, who also closed with a 66, matched birdies on the par-5 18th at The K Club in the playoff. The Swede found the water with his approach on the third extra hole, allowing McIlroy to two-putt for birdie and the win.—*PTI*

Alcaraz dethrones Sinner, wins US Open

Carlos Alcaraz took home $5 million, the biggest single payout among 4 Grand Slams

NEW YORK, 8 SEPT

So maybe the first US Open final between young, elite rivals Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner wasn't as long, riveting, and dramatic as their matchup to decide the championship at the French Open. Perhaps it wasn't as seemingly meaningful and plot-driven as their showdown for the Wimbledon trophy.

Still, what the No. 2-seeded Alcaraz's 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over No. 1 Sinner on Sunday did was significant. Alcaraz reasserted his superiority over the defending champion, wrested away the top spot in the ATP rankings, and left tennis fans eager for their next clash will come.

The 23-year-old Draper replaced 24-time Major winner Novak Djokovic at the fifth spot after his run at last week's Madrid Open where he lost to Casper Ruud in the final. Draper had won the Indian Wells Masters in March. Norway's Ruud jumped eight spots to return to Top 10 courtesy his maiden Masters title in Madrid. Ruud, a three-time Grand Slam runner-up, is World No. 7 while Djokovic is ranked sixth.

They are the first two men in the sport's history to face each other in three consecutive Grand Slam finals within a single season. Sinner simply doesn't see that sort of stuff from anyone else.

And these numbers say as much about Alcaraz as they do Sinner: Over the last two seasons, Sinner is 1-7 against Alcaraz and 109-4 against everyone else.

That one win for Sinner over Alcaraz came at Wimbledon.

Less than two months later, Alcaraz reversed the result to cap what he called "the best tournament so far that I have ever played." He bounced his racket off the ground and caught it after one lost point. He exhaled and shook his head after another. Sinner, needless to say, wasn't as pleased by those sorts of strokes.

Alcaraz withdraws from Davis Cup due to fatigue

Spain will be without US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz at the David Cup, with the youngster withdrawing due to fatigue, the tournament announced on Monday.

Alcaraz and Alejandro Davidovich-Fokina, the two players to have withdrawn from the team, will be replaced by Jaume Munar, Roberto Carballes. —*PTI*

Carlos Alcaraz with trophy
PHOTO: X/@USOPEN

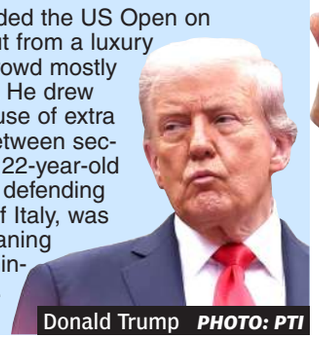
TOP 10 (ALONG WITH RANKING POINTS)

- 1 (+1). Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)- 11,540
- 2 (-1). Jannik Sinner (ITA) - 10,780
- 3. Alexander Zverev (GER) - 5,930
- 4 (+3). Novak Djokovic (SRB) - 4,830
- 5 (-1). Taylor Fritz (USA) - 4,675
- 6. Ben Shelton (USA) - 4,280
- 7 (-2). Jack Draper (GBR) - 3,690
- 8. Alex de Minaur (AUS) - 3,545
- 9 (+1). Lorenzo Musetti (ITA) - 3,505
- 10 (-1). Karen Khachanov - 3,280

Jannik Sinner
PHOTO: X/@USOPEN

Donald Trump was greeted with mixed cheers and boos after delay at final

President Donald Trump attended the US Open on Sunday and briefly stepped out from a luxury box to wave at a main court crowd mostly still arriving for the men's final. He drew mixed cheers and boos. Because of extra security screening, the final between second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz, a 22-year-old Spaniard, and No. 1 seed and defending champion Jannik Sinner, 24, of Italy, was pushed back half an hour, meaning Trump arrived more than 45 minutes before the new start time.



Donald Trump PHOTO: PTI

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

India crushes Singapore 12-0 to enter Super 4s

HANGZHOU, 8 SEPT

Navneet Kaur and Mumtaz Khan dazzled with a hat-trick each as India stormed into the Super 4s with a commanding 12-0 victory over Singapore in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament, here on Monday.

While Navneet (14', 20', 28') and Mumtaz (2', 32', 39') dominated the proceedings, a brace from Neha (11', 38') along with a goal each from Lalremsiami (13'), Udita (29'), Sharmila (45') and Rutuja Pisal (53') ensured another dominant victory for India.

The world No. 10 India, who had earlier thrashed Thailand 11-0 in their tournament-opener, got off to a strong start when they broke the deadlock within the first two minutes. Mumtaz surged forward and unleashed a thunderous reverse stick shot from the top of the circle to open the scoring.

India will next be in action on 10 September, when they take on the second-placed team from Pool A in the Super 4s.

The early pressure kept Singapore on the back foot, and although they managed to fend off India's first penalty corner in the eighth minute, Neha doubled the advantage, pouncing on a rebound in the 11th minute to slot it home with a deft touch. —*PTI*

India advanced to the Super 4s of the Women's Hockey Asia Cup in style PHOTO: X/@ASIACUP

CZ makes 4 changes for Duleep Trophy final against SZ

MUMBAI, 8 SEPT

Vidarbha seamer Nachiket Bhute and Madhya Pradesh's Kumar Kartikeya Singh were among four replacement players named on Monday in the Central Zone squad for their Duleep Trophy final against South Zone.

While Bhute will replace his Vidarbha teammate Yash Thakur, left-arm spinner Kartikeya has been drafted in place of Harsh Dubey.

The Central Zone selectors have also named MP's right-arm pacer Kuldeep Sen and Rajasthan's left-arm spinner Ajay Singh Kukna as replacement players for Khaleel Ahmed and Manav Suthar.

The changes to the squad were announced following the inclusion of Shardul Thakur, Dubey, Khaleel Ahmed, and Suthar in the India A team to take on Australia A in Lucknow in two four-day unofficial Tests. —*PTI*

HONG KONG SUPER 500

Satwik-Chirag to lead Indian challenge

HONG KONG, 8 SEPT

Fresh from their World Championships bronze medal, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will once again spearhead India's challenge at the Hong Kong Super 500 badminton tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

The world No. 3 duo, who produced a superlative show in Paris to clinch their second World Championships bronze, have been India's most consistent performers this season with several semifinal finishes on the BWF Tour, including events in India, Malaysia, China, and Singapore.

The eighth seeds will open their campaign against Chinese Taipei's Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, who showed glimpses of her prime form at the Worlds with

a demolition of China's Wang Zhi Yi before falling in the quarterfinals, will look to build on that performance when she faces Denmark's Line Christophersen in the opener. US Open champion Ayush Shetty, one of the rising stars this year, has a tough first-round clash against China's Lu Guang Zu.

Former world No. 6 Lakshya Sen, still searching for rhythm after his fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics, will look to regain confidence when he takes on Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei. —*PTI*

JAISMINE THROUGH TO QUARTERFINALS

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Olympian Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) advanced to the quarterfinals while World youth champions Sakshi Chaudhary (54kg) and Sanamacha Chanu (70kg) fell in the pre-quarterfinals in women's competitions of the World Boxing Championships in Liverpool on Monday.

Jaismine Lamboria ousted Brazilian Olympian Jucielen Romeu 5-0 late on Sunday night.

She threw some punches towards the fag end of a dull first round to stay ahead.—*PTI*

Asia Cup is India's tournament to lose

DUBAI, 8 SEPT

Overwhelming favourites will be an understatement to define the Suryakumar Yadav-led India, given the gulf between them and the seven other nations, including a mercurial Pakistan, when the battle for continental supremacy unfolds at the Asia Cup T20 tournament on Tuesday.

For now, the Asia Cup T20 carries one truth that towers above the rest: it is India's tournament to lose.

The action will begin with Afghanistan taking on Hong Kong in Abu Dhabi, but all eyes will be on Dubai, where a star-studded Indian team will be aiming to crush the United Arab Emirates in its opener on Wednesday.

In a tournament that has often served as a dress rehearsal for the T20 World Cup, the Asia Cup this time comes with a sense of inevitability.

The weight of expectations is on the Indian team, not merely because of its pedigree but also because the balance of power has tilted decisively in its favour.

India, for all its internal debates and external expectations, looks like the one side that has clarity of purpose. And clarity, in high-pressure tournaments, often counts for more than raw talent.

If one takes into account leadership and sheer depth of talent, then this is India's tournament to lose.

Such has been the confidence that the chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar, and head coach Gautam Gambhir didn't, for once, entertain the idea of picking a 17-member squad allowed by the Asian Cricket Council.

The dropping of Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan is PCB's clearest admission yet that reputations cannot hold a team hostage. But their success will largely depend more on how Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, and Hasan Ali bowl against a flamboyant Indian batting line-up. —*PTI*

Yasim and Rashid
PHOTO: X/@ASIACUP

AFG vs Hong Kong Match starts at 8.00 pm IST

India beat Oman on penalties to finish third

HISOR, 8 SEPT

The Indian men's football team got the better of Oman 3-2 on penalties to finish third in the CAFA Nations Cup here on Monday, beating their higher-ranked opponents from West Asia for the first time.

This is the first time that India has beaten Oman in an international football match.

The match finished 1-1 in regulation time after Udanta Singh scored the equaliser for India.

In the shootout, Oman missed their first two chances, while Gurpreet Singh Sandhu saved the final penalty as India emerged victorious against their higher-ranked opponents in the third-fourth place classification match.

Lallianzuala Chhangte, Rahul Bheke, and Jithin MS scored for India in the shootout, while Anwar Ali and Udanta Singh missed their spot kicks at the Hisor Central Stadium. —*PTI*

Indians bow out in individual quarters after historic team gold

GWANGJU, 8 SEPT

India's dream run in the men's compound events of the World Archery Championships ended on a disappointing note on Monday as the gold-winning team of Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini, and Prathamesh Fuge crashed out of the individual quarterfinals here.

The trio, which won a path-breaking gold in the team competition, was placed in different quarters of the draw, and the country had a realistic shot at a clean sweep, but it ended in heartbreak.

This also meant India failed to defend the individual gold medal in the men's compound section at the World Championship. Ojas Deotale had become the world champion in the last edition at Berlin in 2023, but this time, the archer could not make the Indian team due to stiff competition in the trials. The women's individual events are still to be completed in the compound competitions.

Yadav, who had won team gold and mixed team silver with Jyothi Surekha Vennam on Sunday. —*PTI*

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Spain hit six as Germany get first WC Qualifying Win

PARIS, 8 SEPT

Mikel Merino scored a hat-trick as a majestic Spain thumped Turkey 6-0 away in World Cup qualifying on Sunday, while a brilliant Florian Wirtz free-kick helped Germany beat Northern Ireland 3-1 to get their bid up and running. European champions Spain were in unstoppable form in the central Turkish city of Konya, claiming their second biggest-ever away win in World Cup qualifying as Arsenal midfielder Merino scored his first professional hat-trick. Barcelona playmaker Pedri Gonzalez opened the scoring inside six minutes and later completed the scoring, with Ferran Torres netting the visitors' other goal.

The quality of Merino's strikes was remarkable, with his first coming at the end of a superb team move and his second a controlled finish from a Pedri assist. He completed his triple with a curling shot into the top corner.The one blemish on the night's work for Spain was the withdrawal of Nico Williams due to an apparent thigh injury.—*PTI*

Mikel Merino PHOTO: X/@DFB_TEAM_EN

NEXT TARGET WORLD CUP

Analysing games and learning from them: Harmanpreet

RAJGIR, 8 SEPT

Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh on Monday said quick analysis and learning from mistakes after every game was key in ending the eight-year title drought at the Asia Cup.

Heading into the Asia Cup on the back of a woeful run, India put up a superlative display, defeating South Korea 4-1 in the final on Sunday, to not only end their barren run at the continental tournament but also seal the berth for next year's World Cup.

"We had been training for this for a while, we have achieved it today...very happy. Our next target is the World Cup now," Harmanpreet said after the win.

"We learn from every match. I always say there is a plus and a minus after every game. What matters is how you analyse those things and how fast you work on them. As a team, we have defended well, and the scoring has been great."

India had endured a dismal European leg of the FIH Pro League, suffering seven straight defeats, the longest losing streak in the team's history, while conceding 26 goals in eight games.

But the turnaround at the Asia Cup was remarkable, as the hosts let in only nine goals in seven matches and struck 39 at the other end.

"We have given a tough fight to our opponents in the last few games, and that's why our result has been great. Credit goes to the forwards that they were converting opportunities into goals. We want to continue it," Harmanpreet added.

In the final, India were on the ball from the start and looked determined. The coordination between the defence, midfield, and forward line was a treat to watch as they penetrated the rival circle frequently.

Former India captain Viren Rasquinha praised the side's defensive effort in the final against South Korea. —*PTI*

Harmanpreet Singh
PHOTO: PTI